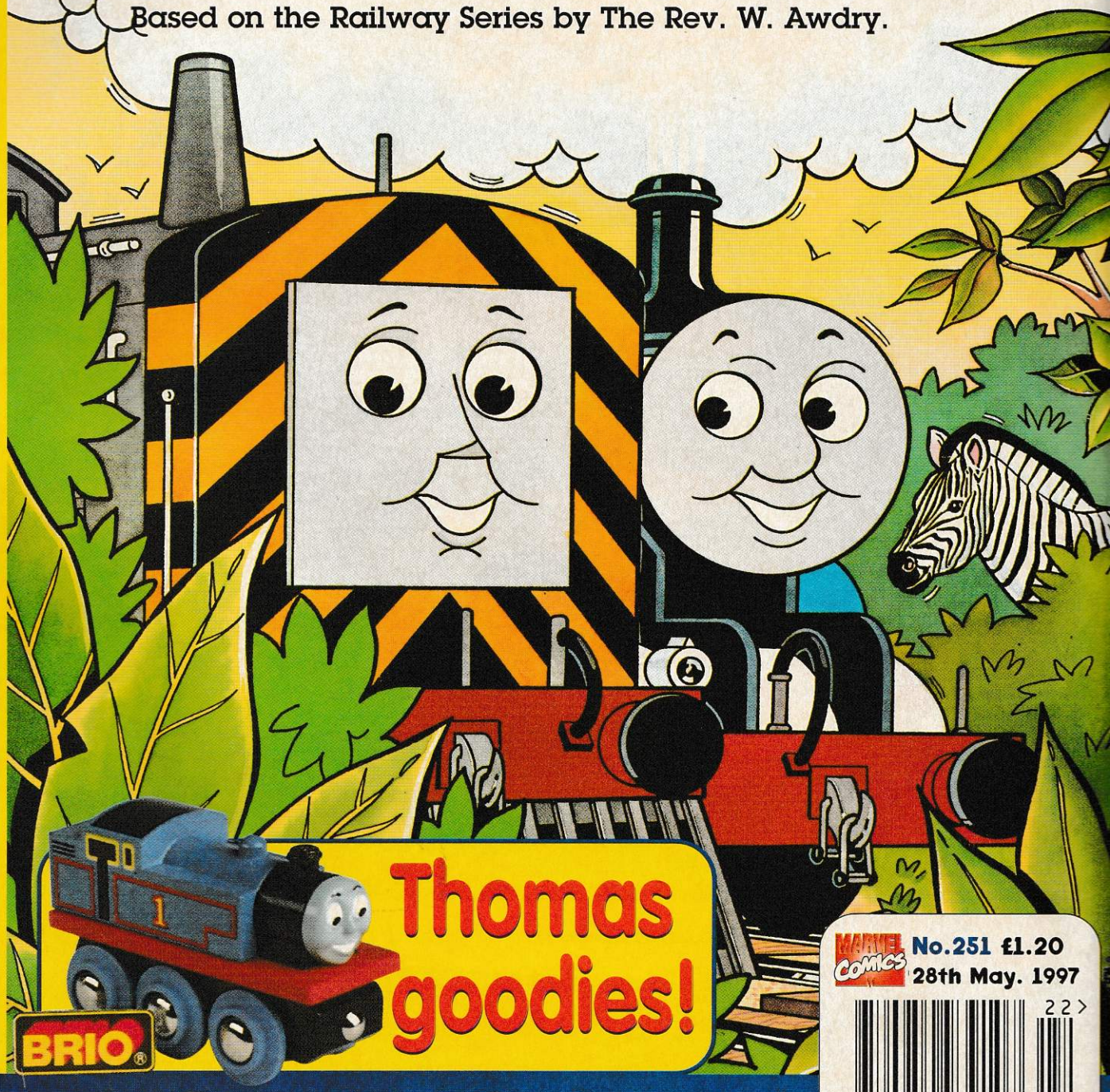
GREAT STORIES!

LET'S READ TOGETHER

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Thomas goodies!

BRIO®

Stories · Games · Colouring

MARVEL COMICS No.251 £1.20
28th May. 1997

9 770954 939107 22

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 Stripey!

8 Join the dots!

9 Competition!

10 The Lighthouse!

12 The Grumpy Engine!

16 All about George!

18 Special Sounds!

21 Matching sounds!

22 Thomas goodies!

24 Percy's Story!

30 Mail train!

32 Photo Album!

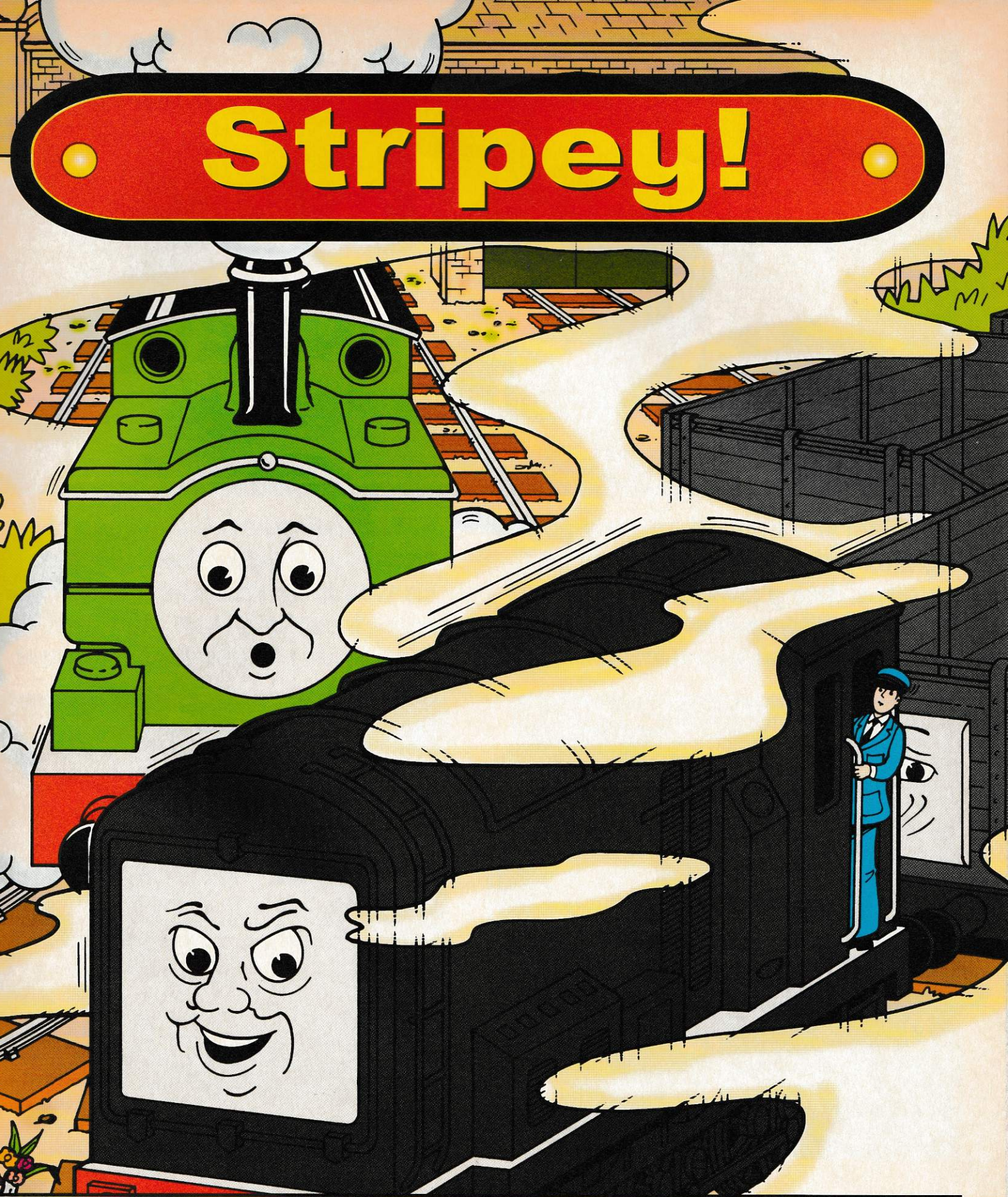
Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

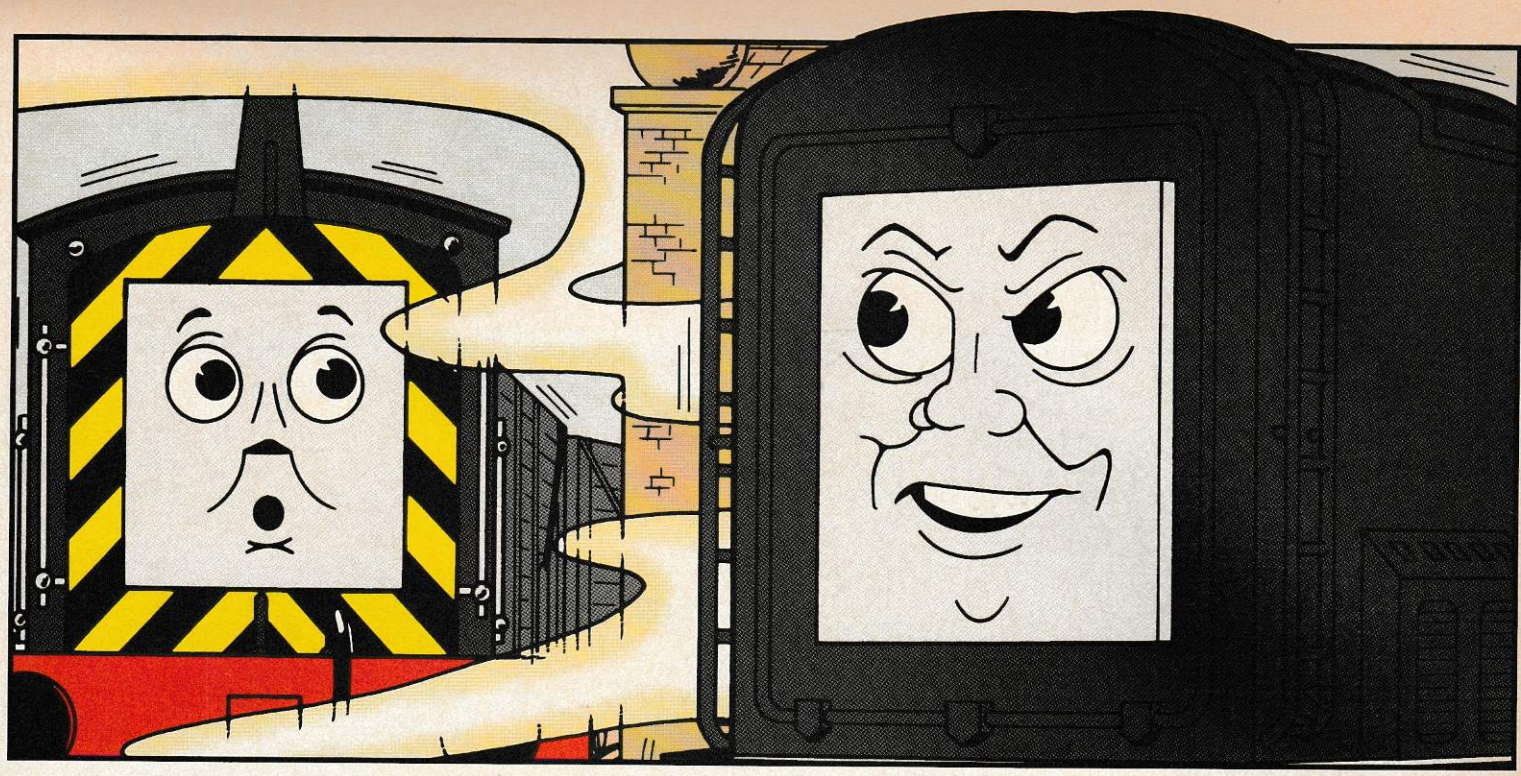
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Karen Brown & Lizzy Drake; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design team: Steve Rawlinson & Aletia Halley; Production: Mark Irvine & JP Fahy. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © W. H. Books. 1997. All television and merchandising rights licensed by W. H. Books. 1997 to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-7398.

Stripey!



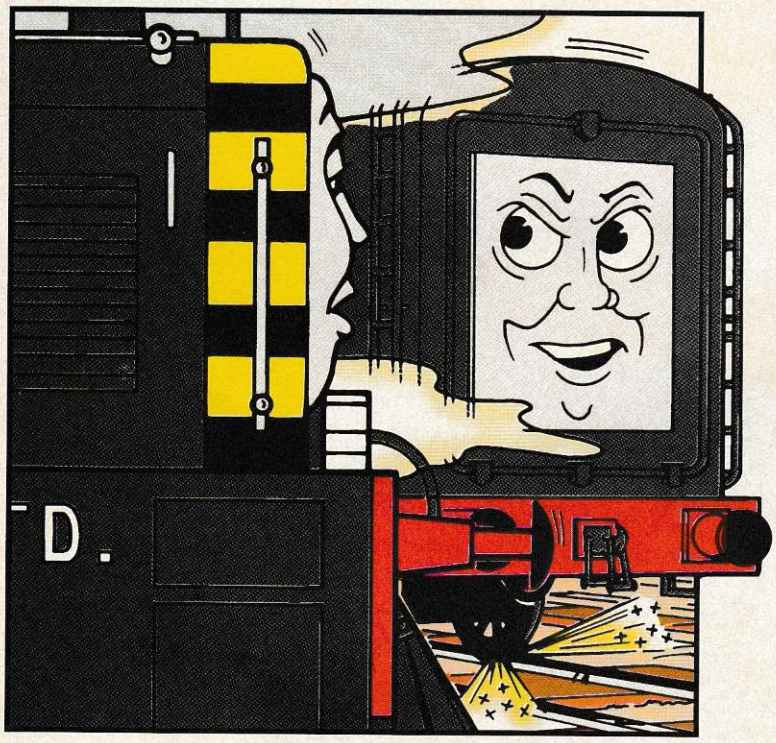
1. Diesel was shunting trucks in the Main Station Yard. As usual, he was showing off. Although it was misty, Diesel rushed about. He was trying to get all his work done in a hurry.

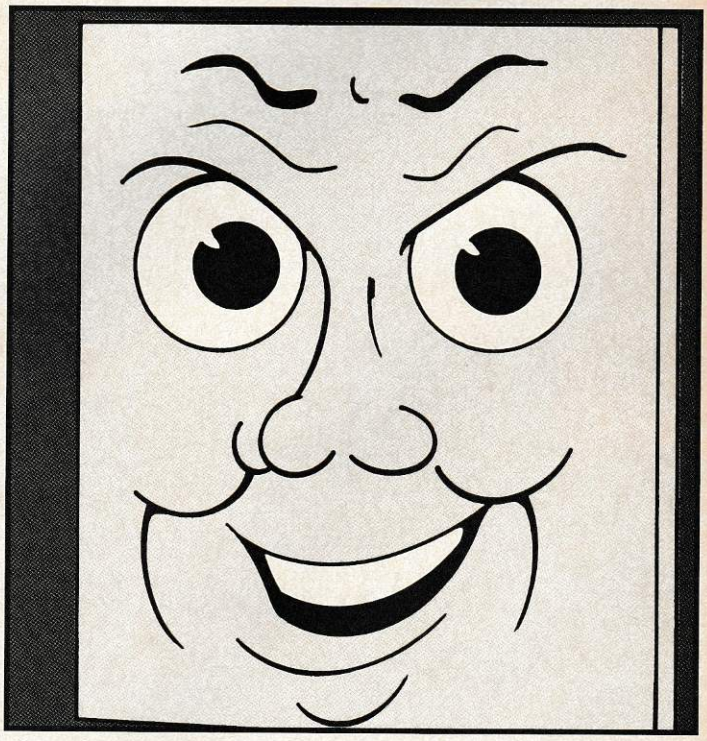
2. "Slow down," called the worried trucks, "before we all crash!" Diesel surprised Duck as he rushed past him, like a dark shadow. "You made me jump!" shouted Duck.



3. Diesel just laughed. "Serves you right for being half asleep!" he growled, racing away over some points. Suddenly, Mavis appeared from behind the engine shed.

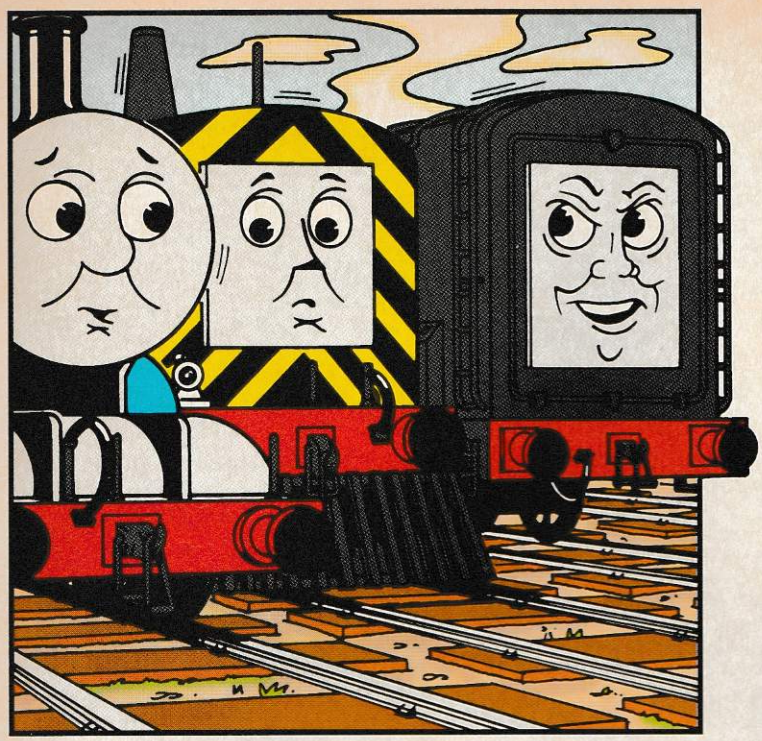
4. She was on the same line. "Watch out!" yelled Diesel. It was his turn to be startled as he saw her bright face. "You're on my track!" cried Mavis. "Rubbish!" said Diesel.



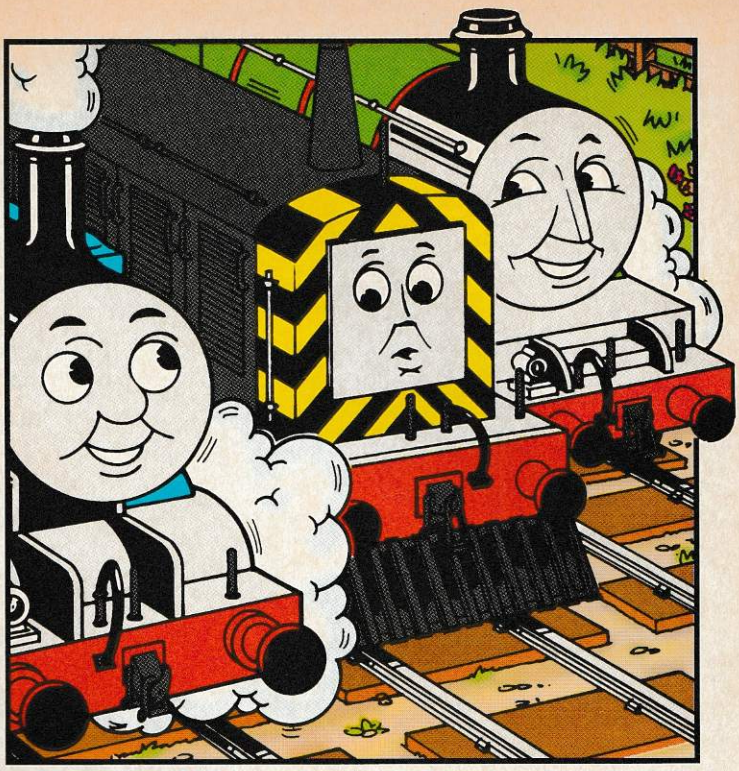


5. He wouldn't admit he had made a mistake. "It's lucky I spotted you in time," said Diesel. "Thanks to my black and yellow warning stripes," she called. "You should have some!"

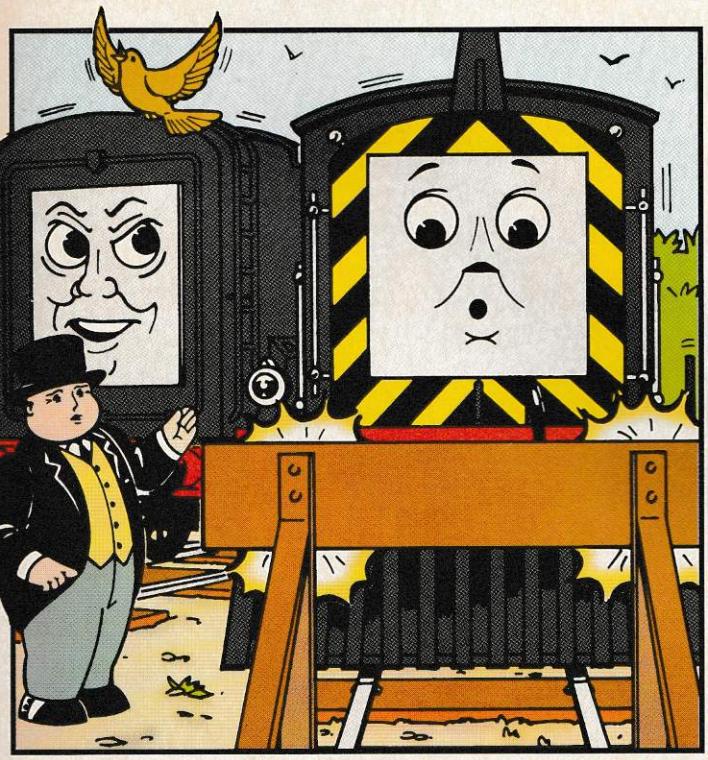
6. "Nonsense! Those stripes of yours are silly," sneered Diesel, in his oily voice. "You look like an overgrown wasp! From now on, I'm going to call you 'Stripey,'" he said, rudely.



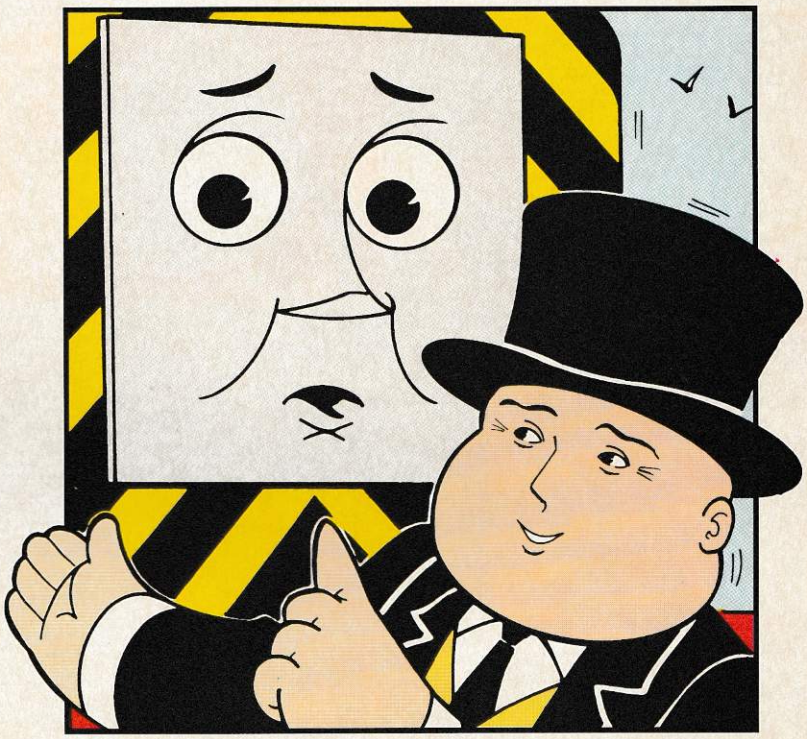
7. Whenever Diesel saw Mavis, he teased her. “Hello, Stripey! I suppose only Really Useful Engines have stripes!” he’d say. The others overheard and felt sorry for Mavis.



8. “He can’t help behaving badly,” Thomas told her. “Try to ignore him. We do!” added Henry. But Mavis couldn’t. She felt so upset, she began to make careless mistakes.



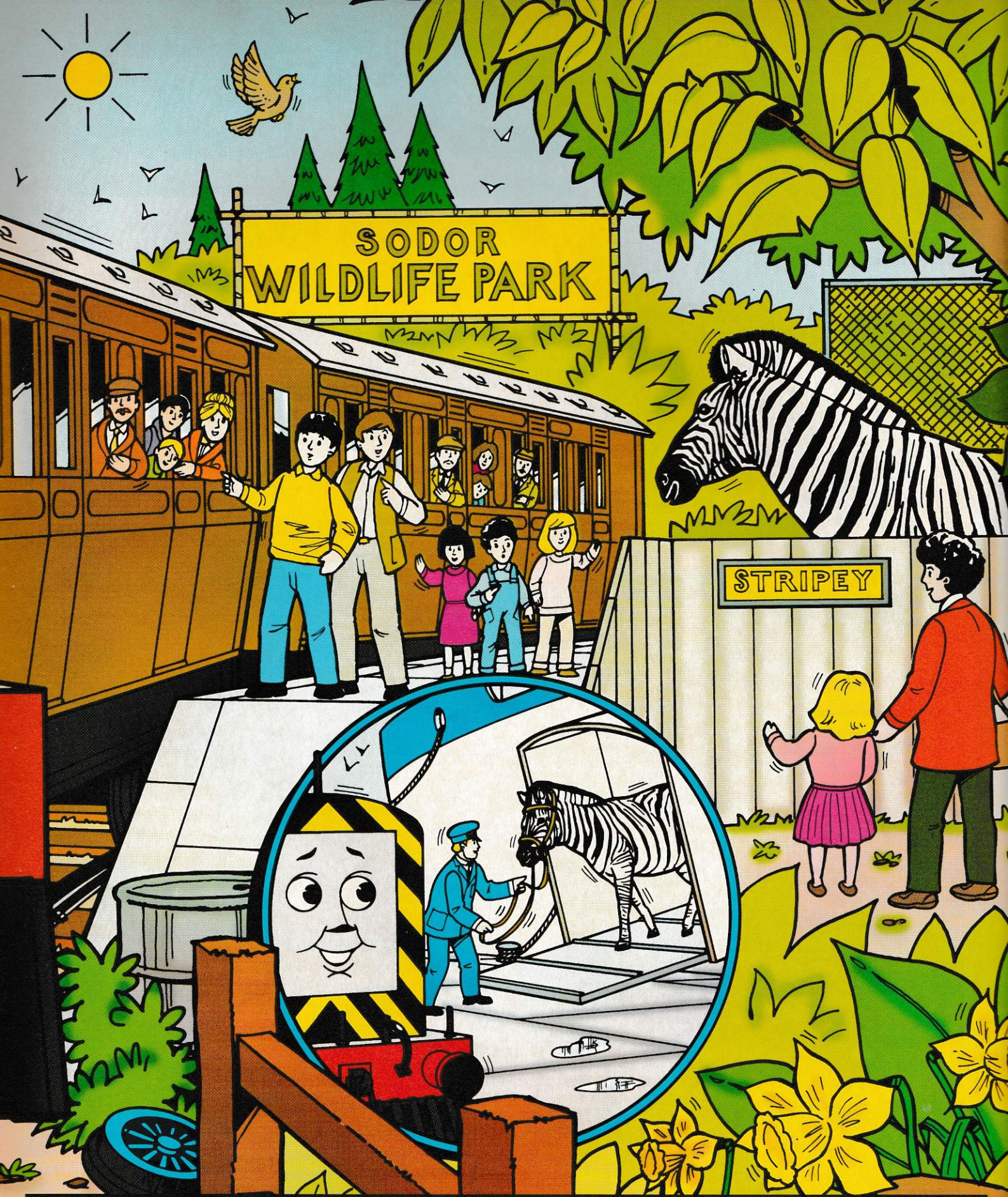
9. Mavis shunted trucks to the wrong siding. Then she hit some buffers with a THUD! “You’re so clumsy, Stripey!” Diesel mocked her. This time, the Fat Controller heard him.



10. “Stop calling me names!” cried Mavis. “I can’t help having stripes.” “They’re very special,” said the Fat Controller. “Are they, Sir?” asked Mavis. “I’ll show you,” he replied.

11. Diesel watched, puzzled, while a truck and carriage were coupled to Mavis. As the mist cleared, the Fat Controller went with her to meet a ship arriving at the Big Harbour.

12. "It's carrying an important cargo which I want you to collect, Mavis," said the Fat Controller. What a surprise she had when she saw it. "A striped horse!" gasped Mavis.

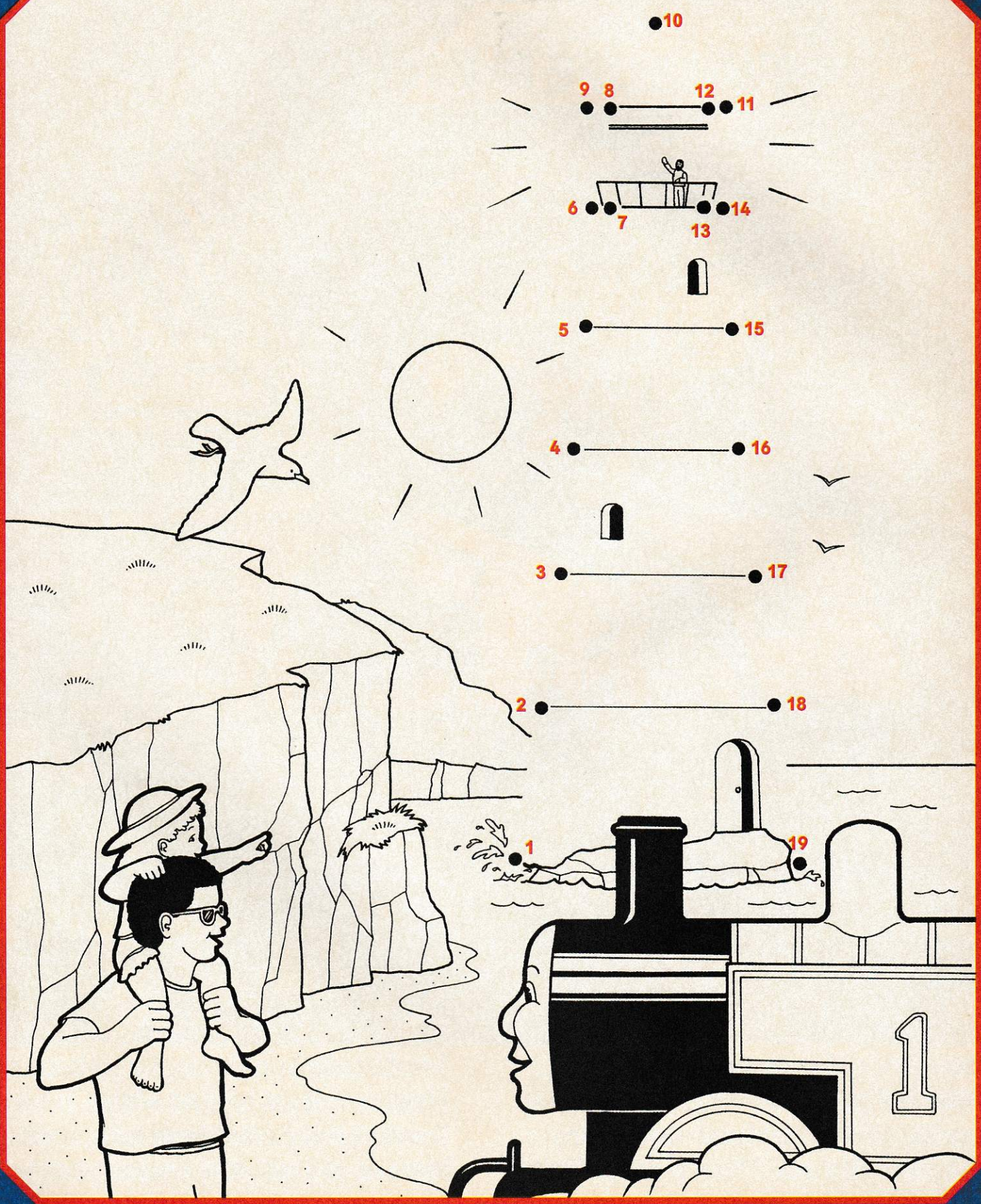


13. "It's a zebra to go to Sodor's Wildlife Park," the Fat Controller explained. Later, Mavis was even asked to name it. "That's easy! Call it 'Stripey'!" she smiled. "Like me!"

14. Stripey soon attracted lots of visitors. Diesel helped Mavis take them to the park. Mavis felt proud to have stripes. And Diesel never called her 'Stripey' again!

Dot to dot!

A man waves from high in the air. Can you see how he got there?



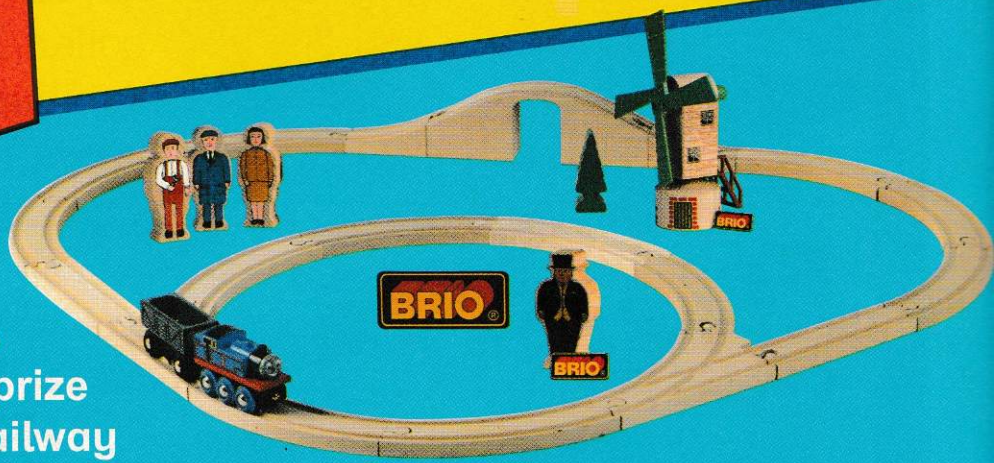
When you have finished colour this page!

Amazing offer!

BRIO®

The first 20 readers to send us token 1 will receive this fantastic wooden Thomas the Tank Engine from BRIO!

But wait! Why not collect token 2 as well?



20 lucky Thomas fans who send us tokens 1 & 2 will get an incredible prize which includes a wooden railway set, complete with Thomas, the Fat Controller, Troublesome Truck and track, a windmill & a 4-figure pack with some of your favourite characters! Just some of the many Thomas items available from BRIO.

Collect token 2 from Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, issue 252. On sale from 29th May 1997!

Send your token to: Thomas token offer, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach & Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Token 1 must be received by 6th May 1997.

For further information on BRIO products, please contact BRIO on 01509 231824.

Britt
BRITT ALLCROFT

All items are compatible with the No 1 Brio Railway Set.

Thomas Token BRIO®

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

The Lighthouse!

Thomas was working late one night on his branch line by the sea. Suddenly, a big flashing light in the distance caught his eye.

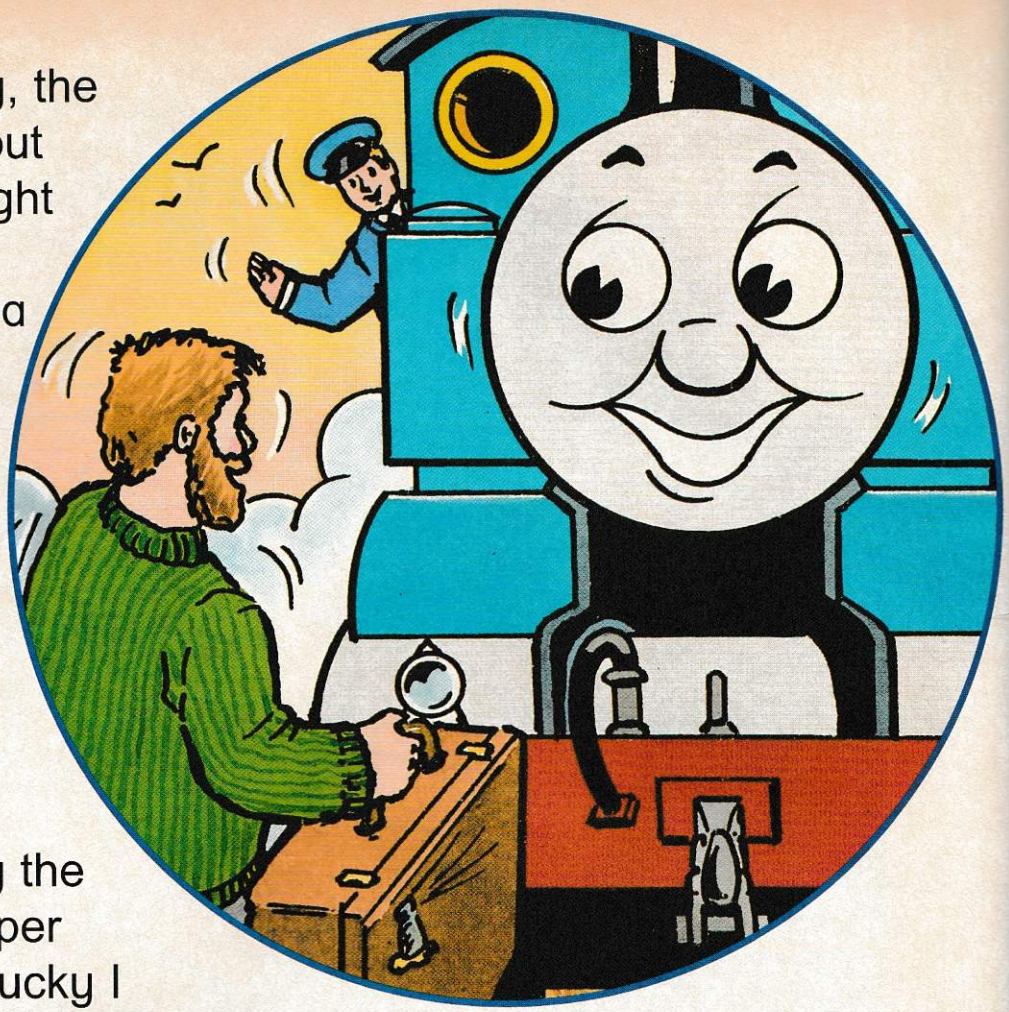
"Oh look!" he puffed. "Where's that light coming from?"

His driver sounded surprised. "Why, it's only the lighthouse. Haven't you seen it before?"

At the next station, the last few passengers got off. One of them had a big suitcase and he started talking to a man who was just about to get on the train. Thomas was tired and he gave an impatient "PHEEEP!" Then Thomas' driver shouted to the man, "Come along Sir, it's your last chance to get home tonight!" "Sorry, driver!" called the man. "I'm the lighthouse-keeper, and I'm going home after two months at sea. The other man has gone to take

over." he added.

As they steamed along, the driver told Thomas all about lighthouses. "The bright light is to help ships find their way safely through the sea at night," he explained.

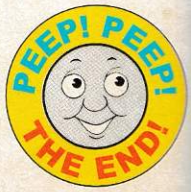


Back at the Main Station, the lighthouse-keeper got off. "Enjoy your rest!" called the driver. Then Thomas piped up, "what a strange life you have! Do you like being all alone in the lighthouse, surrounded by the sea?" The lighthouse-keeper laughed. "I must say, it's lucky I like reading and listening to music!" Then he told Thomas how important his job was, especially when ships got into trouble on the rocky coast. "You wouldn't believe some of the rescues I've helped in!" he said, as he left the station. "See you next month!" called Thomas' driver. "At least you get long breaks!" he added, laughing.

But, only three days later, the man was back at the station again. "The other lighthouse-keeper has caught flu, so I'm going back sooner than I thought!" he exclaimed.

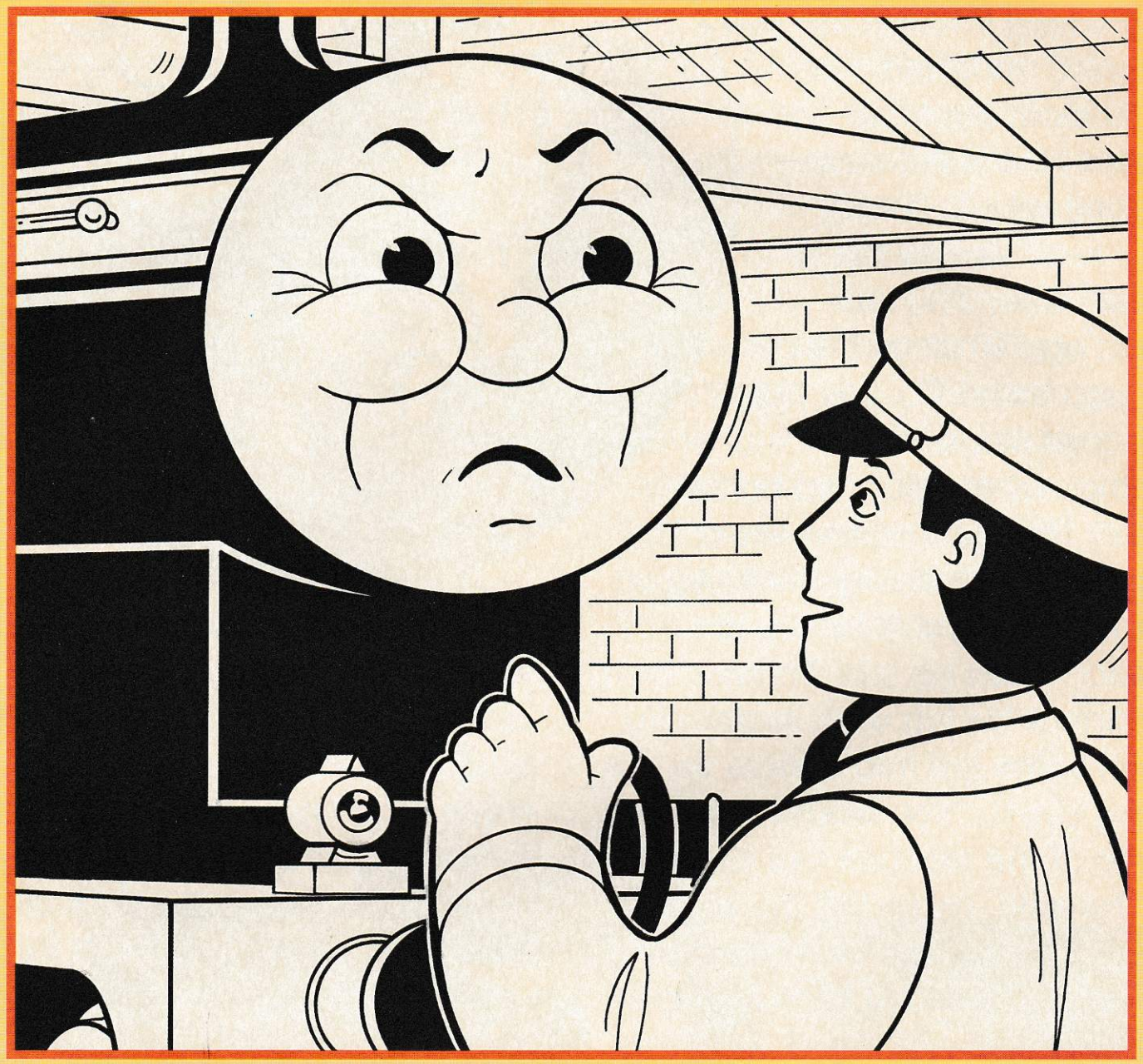
Thomas was feeling thoughtful, and he was still a bit puzzled by the lighthouse. "Don't ships know where they're going?" he asked, as the lighthouse-keeper was getting off at his station. The lighthouse-keeper laughed. "It's not so easy for ships, you know, they're not on rails like you engines! It's easy for them to get lost in the dark and in stormy weather!"

Now Thomas understood. "So it's a bit like signals on railways, making travel safer," he replied. "That's right, Thomas," said the lighthouse-keeper. Then he added, "anyway, I'm glad I work with ships, I understand them, but you engines seem to have minds of your own!" "I'll go along with that!" said Thomas' driver with a smile! "Humph!" Thomas puffed.

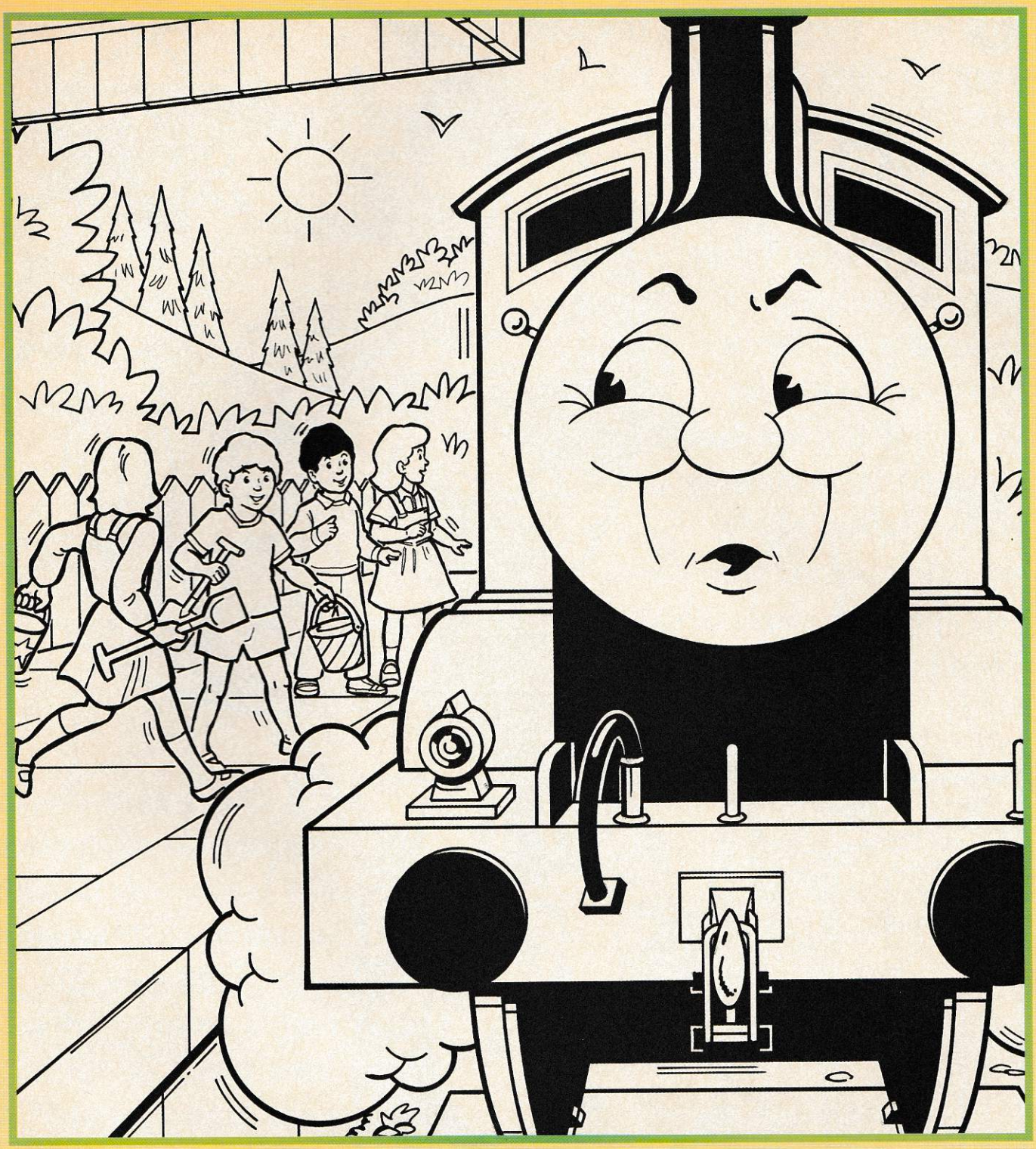


A read & colour story

The Grumpy Engine!

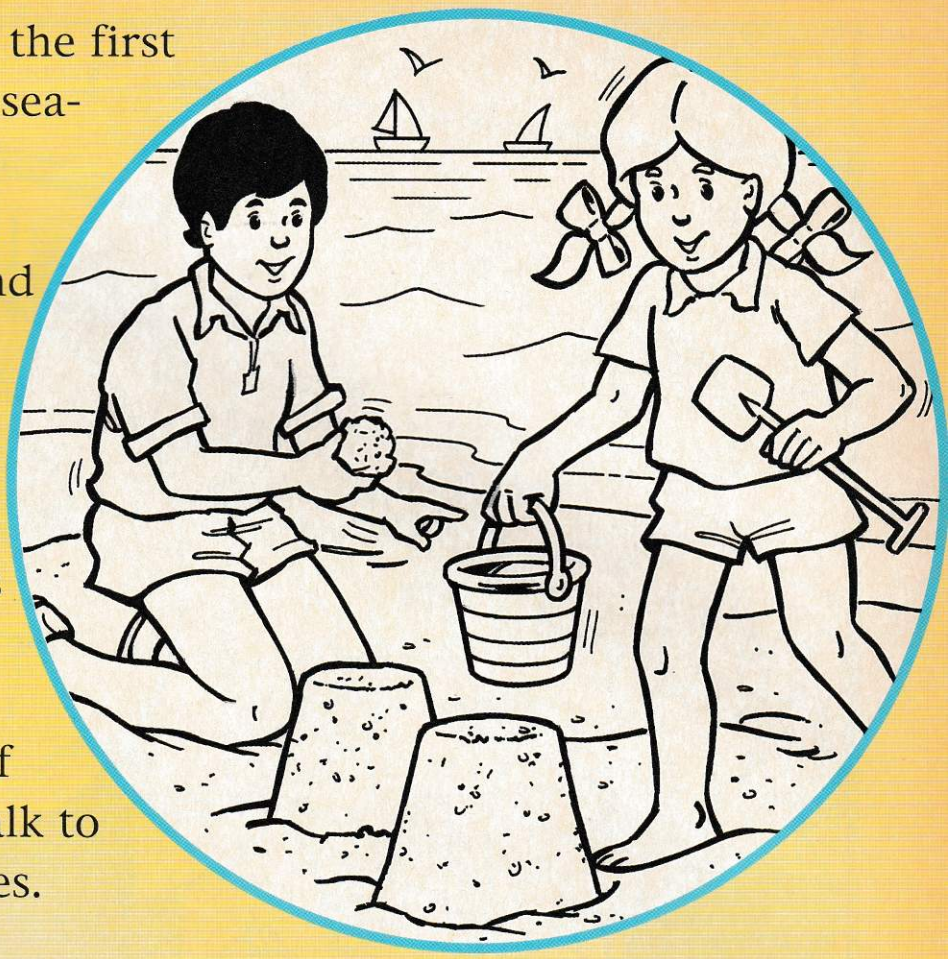


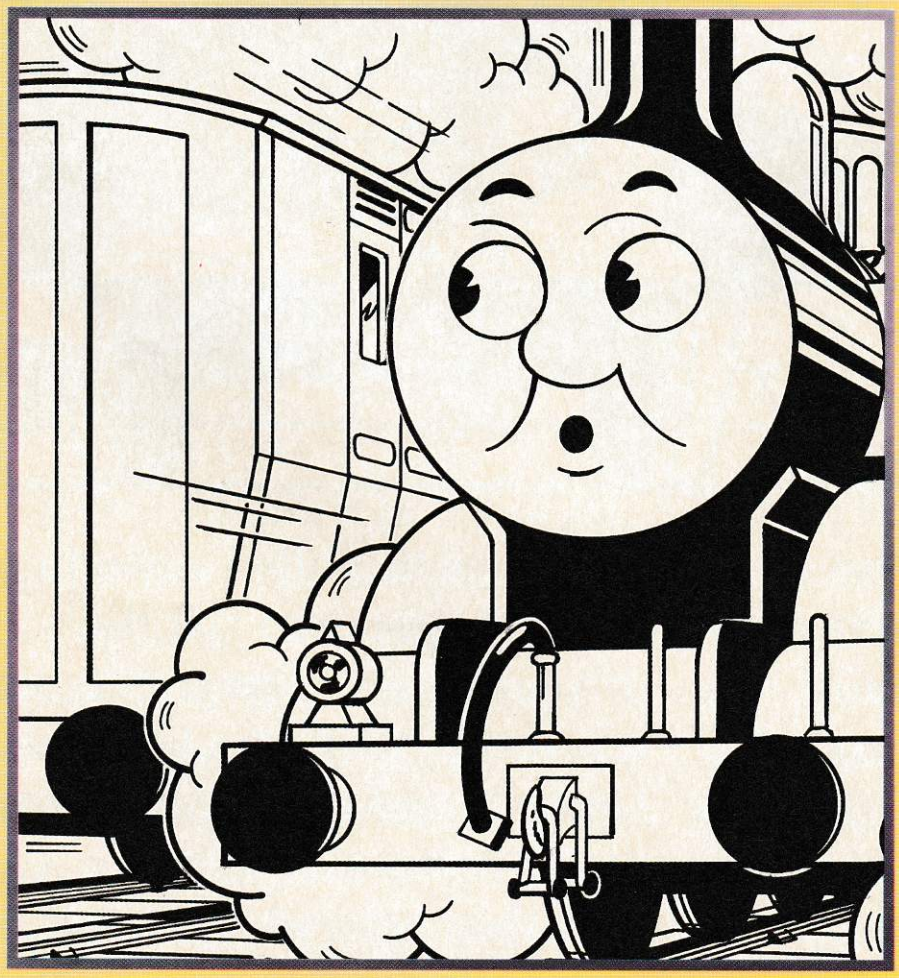
1 One morning James woke up feeling tired and grumpy. "I don't feel like working at all today," he grumbled. I hope I don't have much to do." Just then his driver came in. "I've got a special job for you," he told James. We're taking some schoolchildren on a trip around Sodor. James didn't like the sound of that! He didn't fancy children climbing all over him and putting sticky fingers all over his smart, red paintwork! "Can't someone else do it?" he asked. "No," said his driver. "The other engines are too busy."



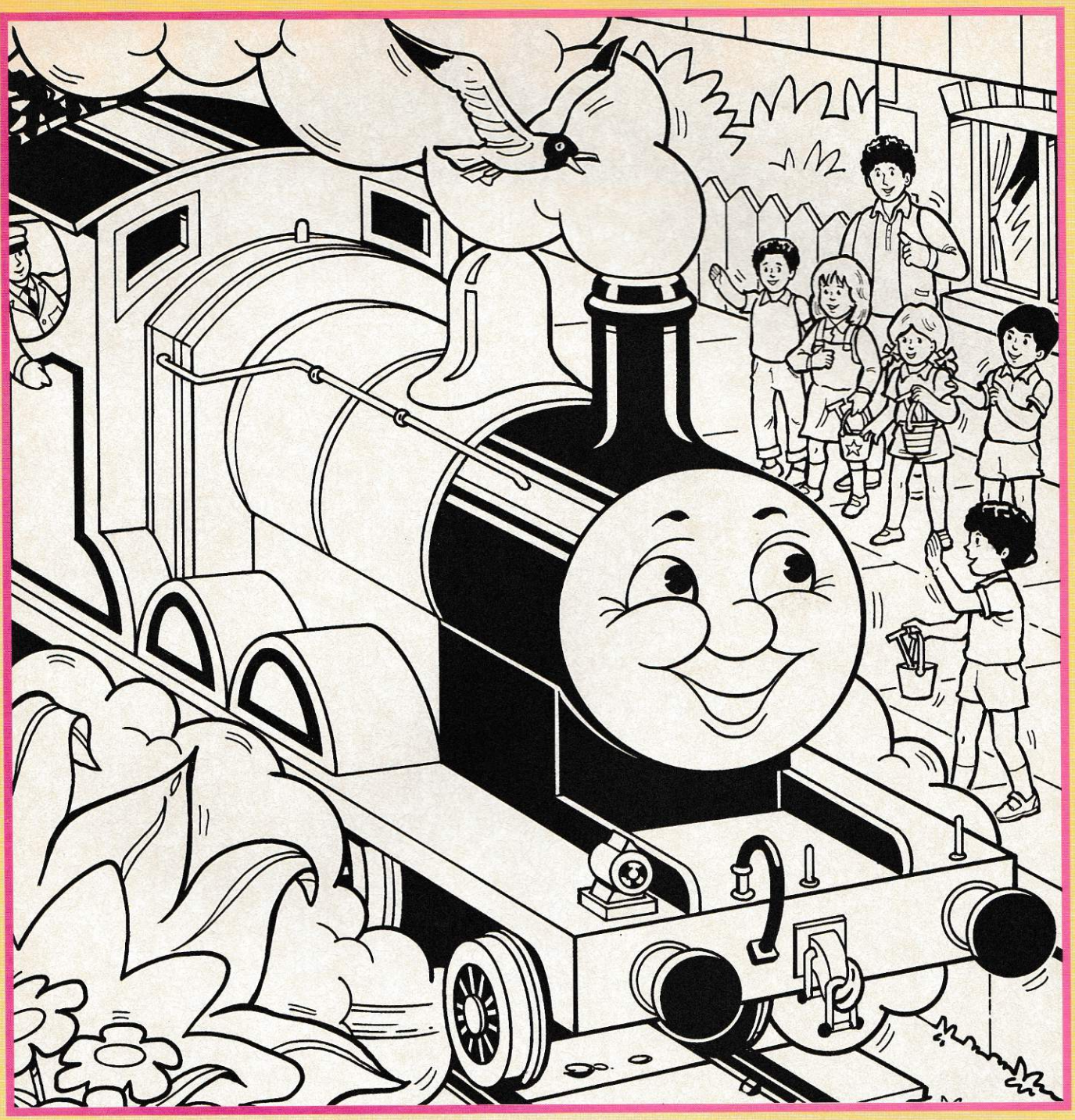
2 So grumpy James set off to collect the children. When they spotted James, the children waved and cheered. "Mind my paintwork!" James said, as they climbed aboard. He really was grumpy! When everyone was on board, James set off. As he puffed along the track, the children and the driver started singing, "See the train going down the track, we say hello and the engine peeps back!" It was such a happy tune that, before long, James was singing too!

3 Soon they reached the first stop on their trip. The sea-side! The children had great fun rock pooling, building sandcastles and playing games! When they buried their teacher's legs in the sand, he looked so funny, that even James couldn't help smiling! As he waited at the seaside station, some of the children came to talk to James and tell him jokes.





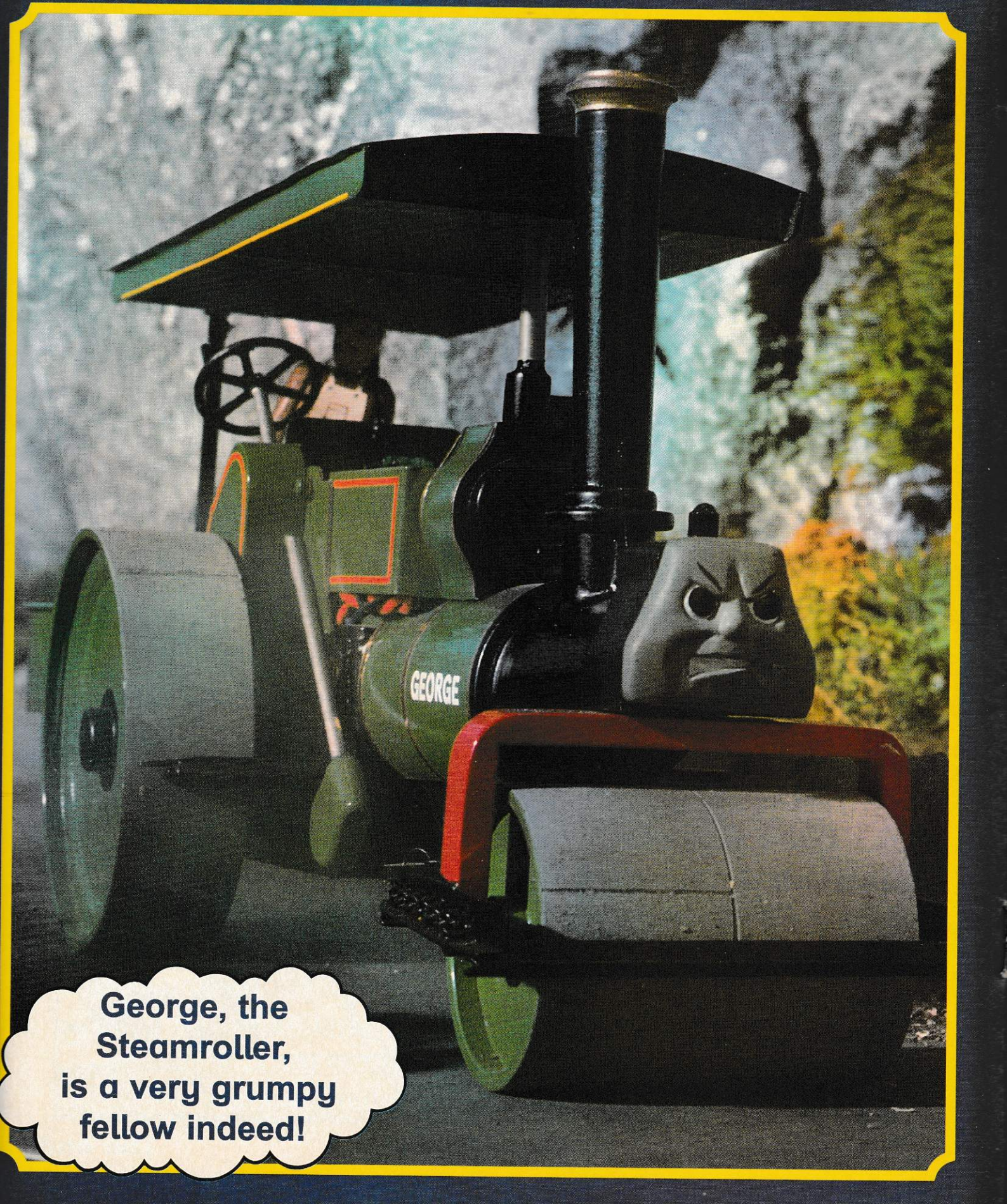
4 The next stop was the sunny countryside! But James was laughing so much that, when it was time to go, he forgot to say, "wipe your feet," or "mind your sticky hands!" As they puffed along the track, the children and James started singing their happy little song again. Thomas was ever so surprised when he chugged past and heard James singing too!



5 They had a scrumptious picnic and played hide and seek. One boy hid in James' cab, and it was funny watching the other children search for him. When it was time to go home, James had forgotten all about being grumpy! He was much too busy having fun! "Bye bye, thanks for taking us out," said the children. "Cheerio, and thank you all for a lovely day," smiled James. "I haven't enjoyed myself so much in ages!" And he puffed home along the track, humming merrily to himself.

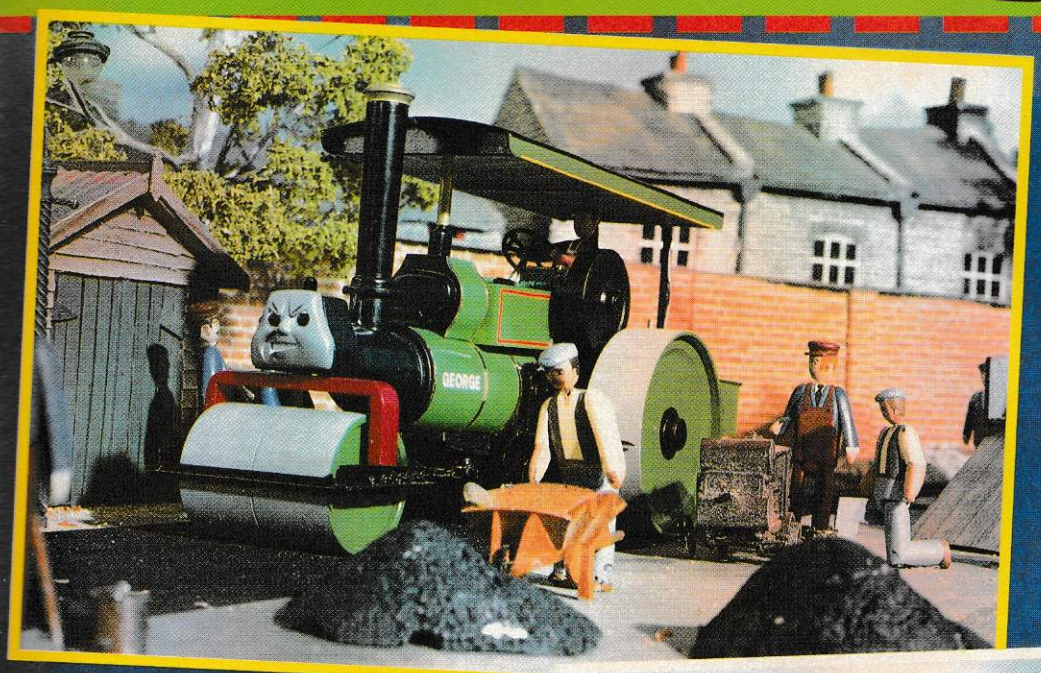
The end

All about



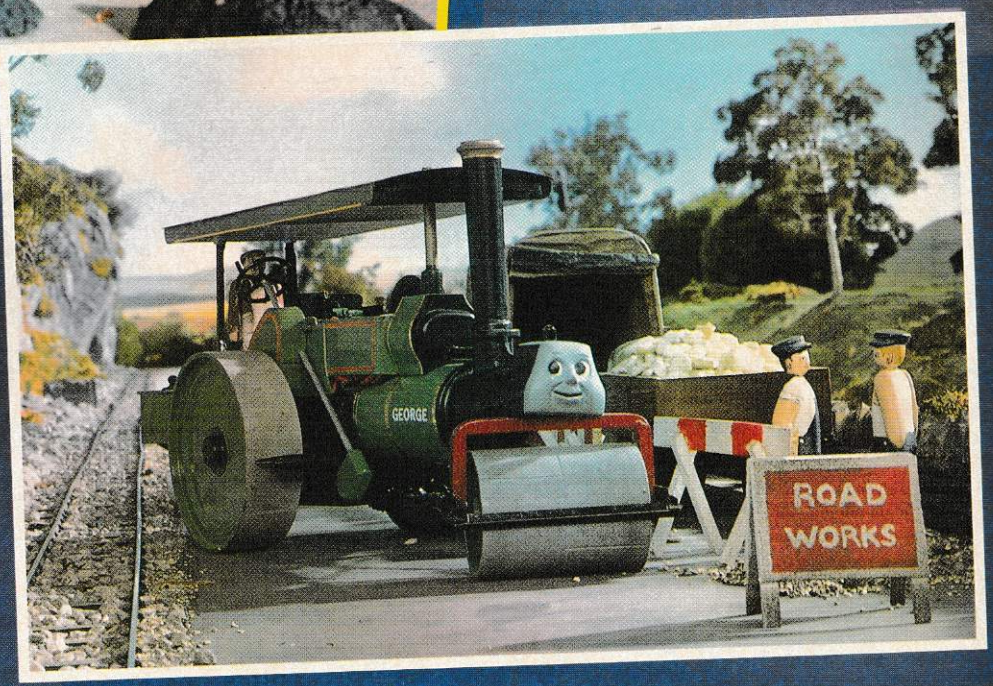
George, the Steamroller, is a very grumpy fellow indeed!

George!



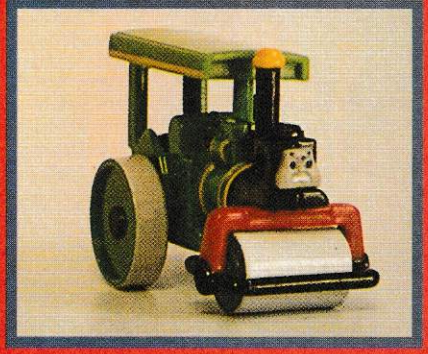
George is happiest when he's helping to lay brand new roads!

He doesn't think much of railways! "Pull 'em up. Turn them into roads," he grumbles.



Win a model George!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model of George from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/251 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.
Closing date: 5th June, 1997.

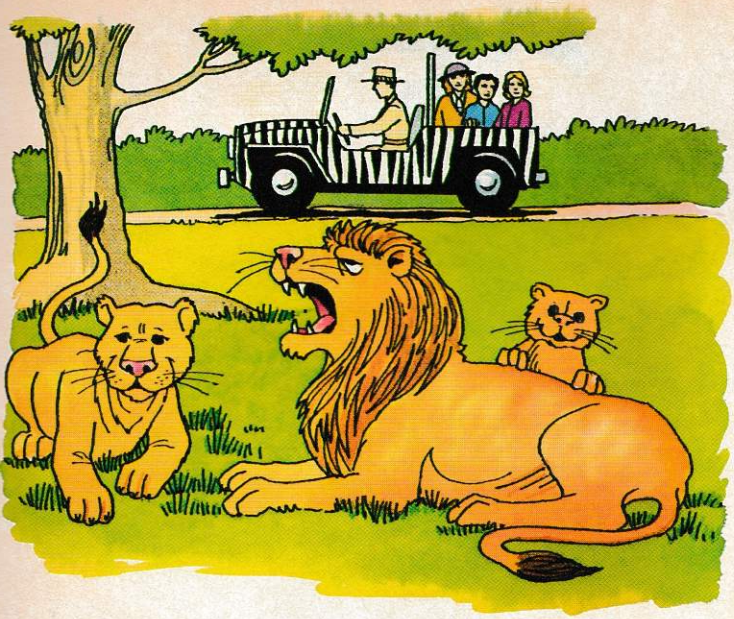


Special Sounds

"SSSSSSS!" came a noise as Bridget fetched a jacket from her bedroom at her grandparent's house. "Stop playing about, Stephen!" she called to her brother. "I was pretending to be a snake," he said, appearing at the door. "I guessed that!" laughed Bridget, "everyone knows snakes hiss and so do brothers when they're being silly!" "Cheek!" grinned Stephen. "Soon we're going to hear all sorts of animal sounds. I can't wait!" "Neither can I," replied his sister. "Hurry up and go downstairs. Grandma's ready to take us out."

It was a fine day and they were off to visit Sodor's Wildlife Park. They decided to travel there in Bertie the Bus. "We'll catch a train home," Lady Hatt told her grandchildren, as she paid for their tickets, at the entrance gate.

It was very busy and exciting at the wildlife park. There were



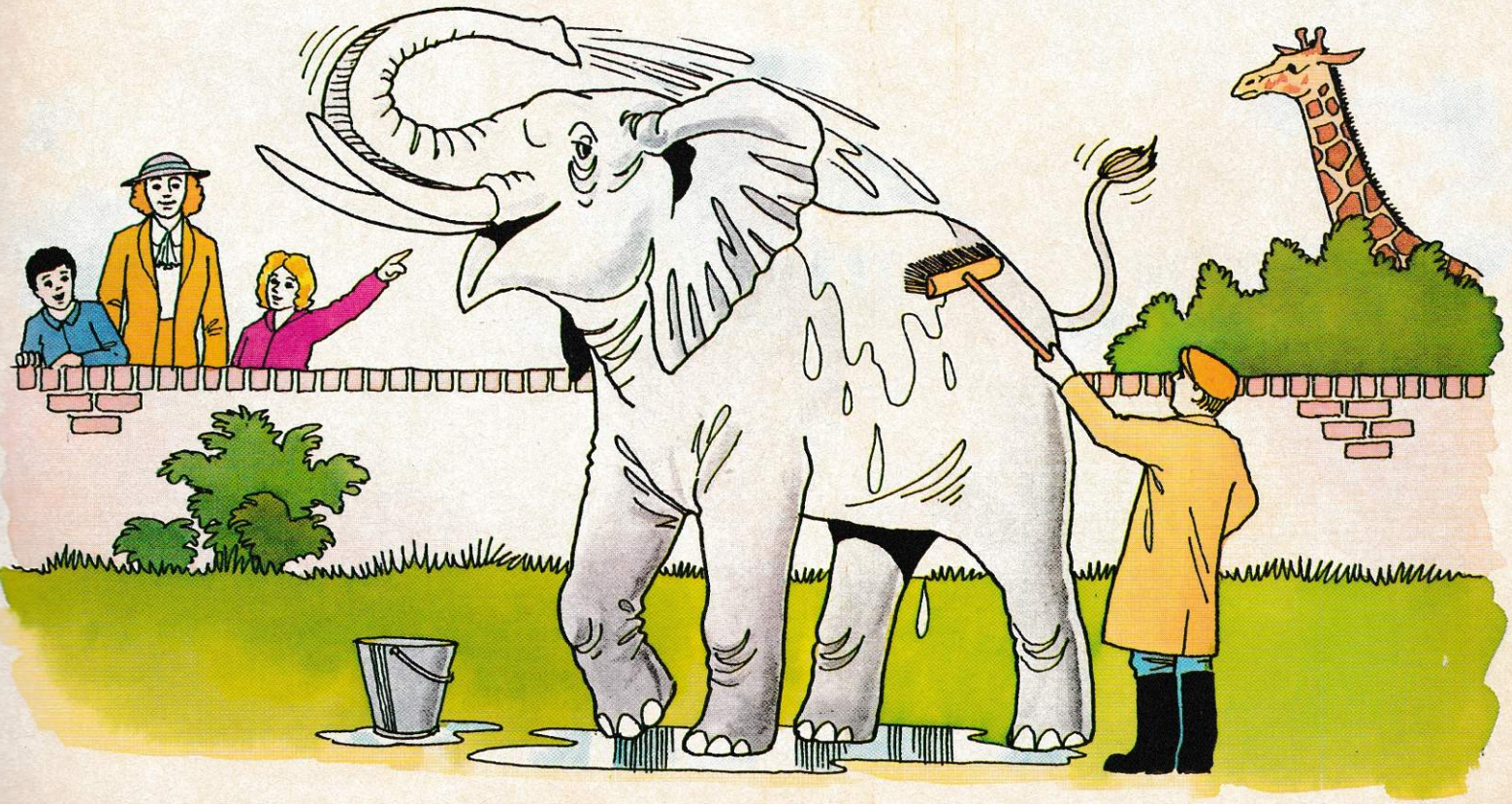
animals from all over the world.

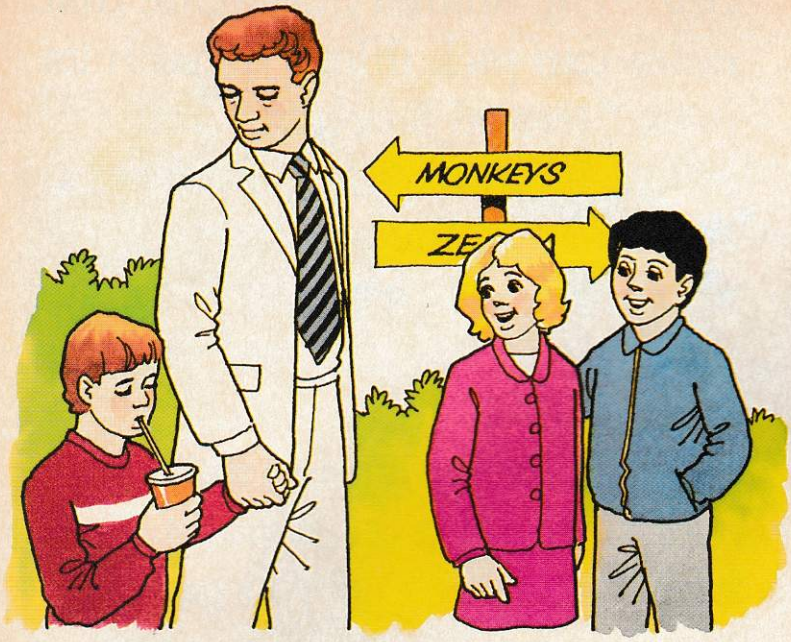
Suddenly, there came a fierce roar. "Wow!" gasped Stephen. "Guess what animal that is," said Bridget. "It's from Africa and has a big furry mane!" "I don't need any clues," replied Stephen. "It's a lion. Look!" They had just spotted the big, powerful cat, with its family, when they heard a trumpeting call. "The animal that made that noise can pick things up with its nose," teased Stephen. "You mean, its trunk," said Bridget, as they went to the elephant enclosure. A huge, grey elephant with enormous ears was drawing water into its trunk from a bucket. Then it curled its trunk and blew out a jet of water all over its back. "Did you say that trunk's a really useful nose or *hose*!" smiled Lady Hatt.

Then Stephen and Bridget heard a shrill squawking. They soon discovered it was coming from some parrots.

The two children really enjoyed guessing all the different animal sounds.

There were monkeys that chattered and howled, seals that





called with a short, honking bark plus a marvellous mixture of other creatures that bellowed, snorted and snarled.

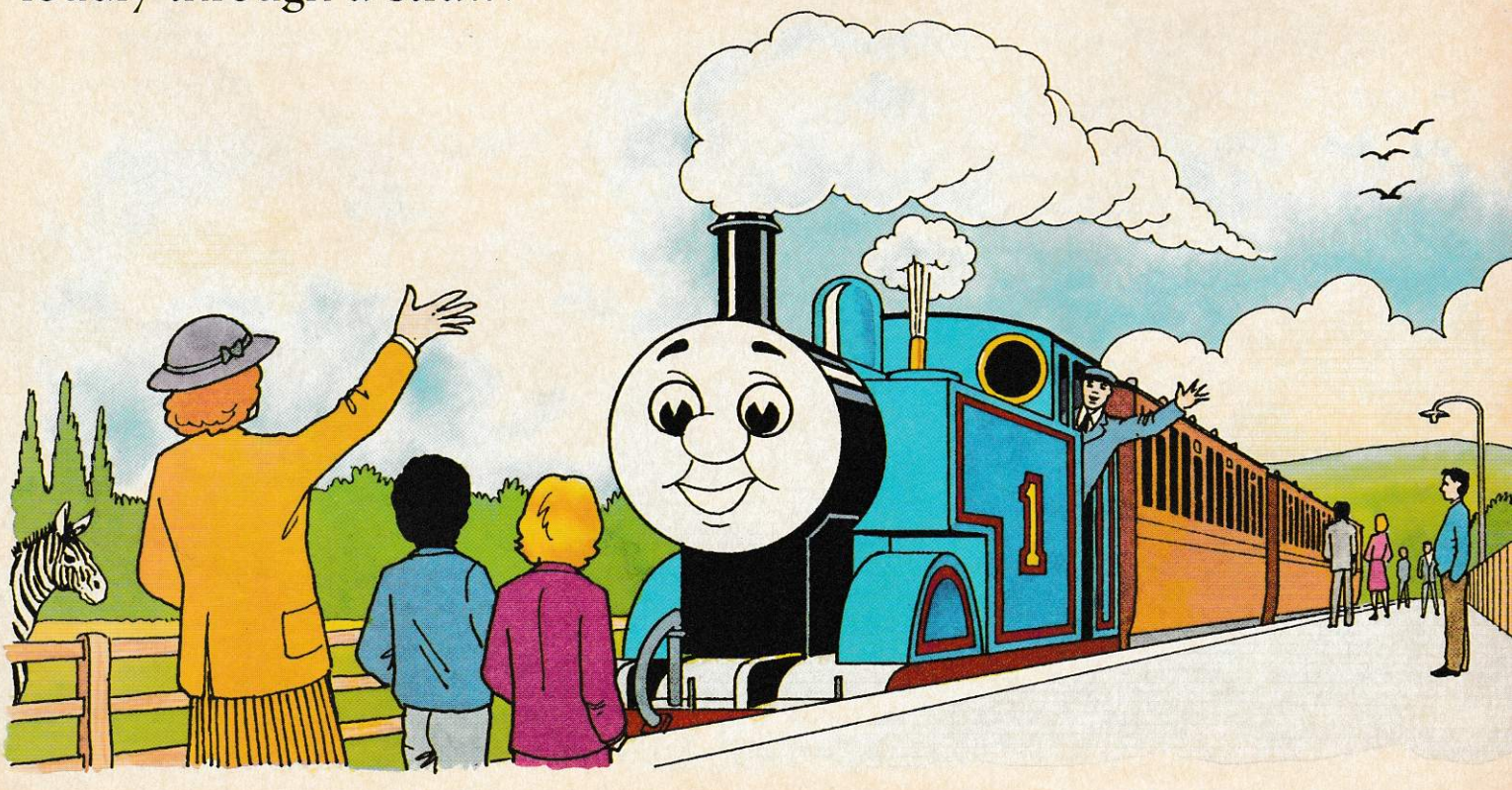
Just when Stephen and Bridget thought they had heard them all, there was a weird burble-gurgling behind them. How they laughed when they saw it was only a boy drinking loudly through a straw!

The children had a wonderful time and they thanked their grandmother for taking them. "We've learned so many new noises," they told her.

At that moment, all three heard a whistling. PEEP-PEEEP! "I'm sure you both know who's making that noise," smiled Lady Hatt. "It's Thomas arriving to take us home," laughed Bridget.

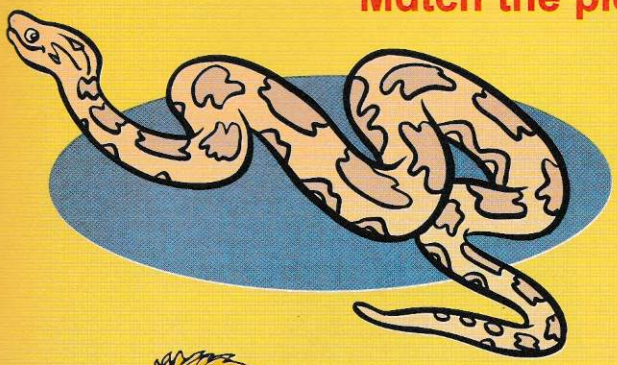
Lady Hatt and the children went to the nearby station to meet him. As Thomas pulled up, he blew out lots of steam with a noisy SSSSSSS! "Snakes and playful brothers aren't the only things that hiss," joked Bridget, "Thomas does, too!"

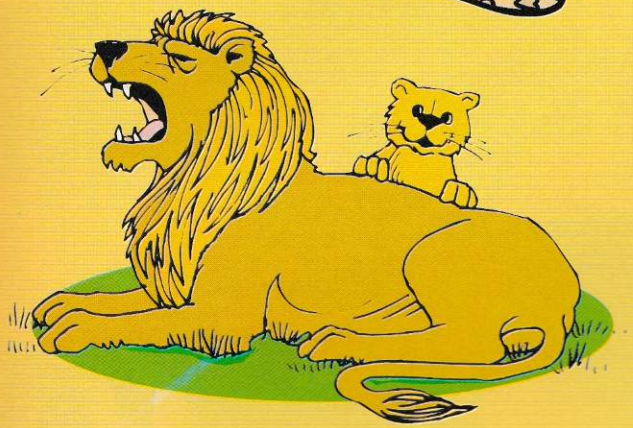
THE END



Matching sounds!

You've just read about Stephen and Bridget's animal adventure. What a noise! Can you remember what sound each animal makes? Match the pictures and the words below.





arf arf!

squawk!

hisss!

yrroar!

What other animal sounds can you think of?

Subscription offer!

Fantastic free gifts when you subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends today! For only £31.20 you will receive 26 fun-packed issues plus these brilliant Thomas toys!

Convenient & great value for money!

Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for now and receive 26 issues plus your FREE Thomas goodies!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months for £31.20.
Postage and packaging is **FREE!**

Child's name.....**Address**.....

.....

.....**Post code**..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**.....

.....

.....**Post code** .....

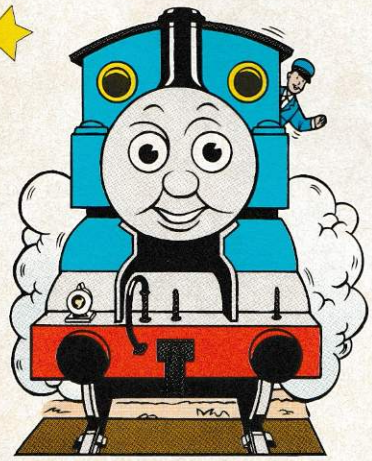
Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

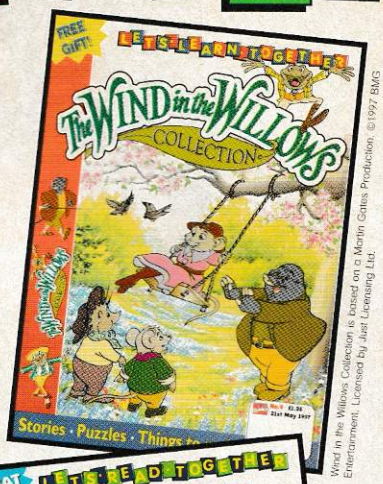
On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

0091 H

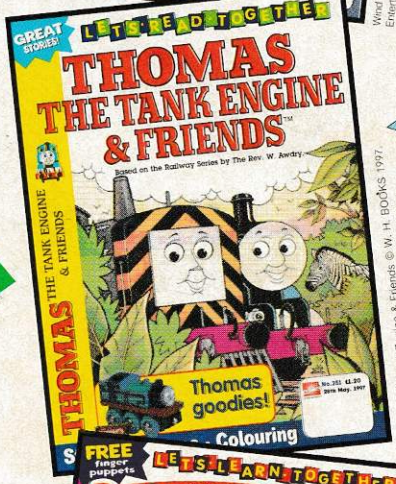
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Use your finger to follow the lines from your favourite characters to their comics!

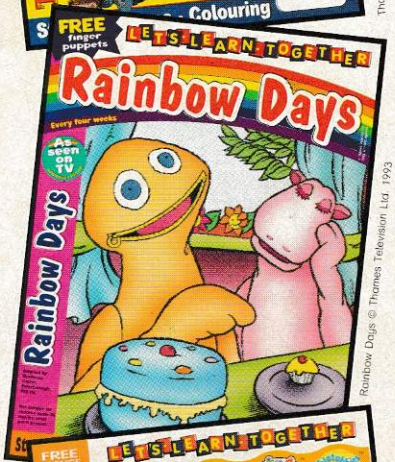




Wind in the Willows Collection is based on a Martin Gates Production. ©1997 BMG Entertainment. Licensed by Just Licensing Ltd.



Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends © W. H. BOOKS 1997.



Rainbow Days © Thames Television Ltd. 1993

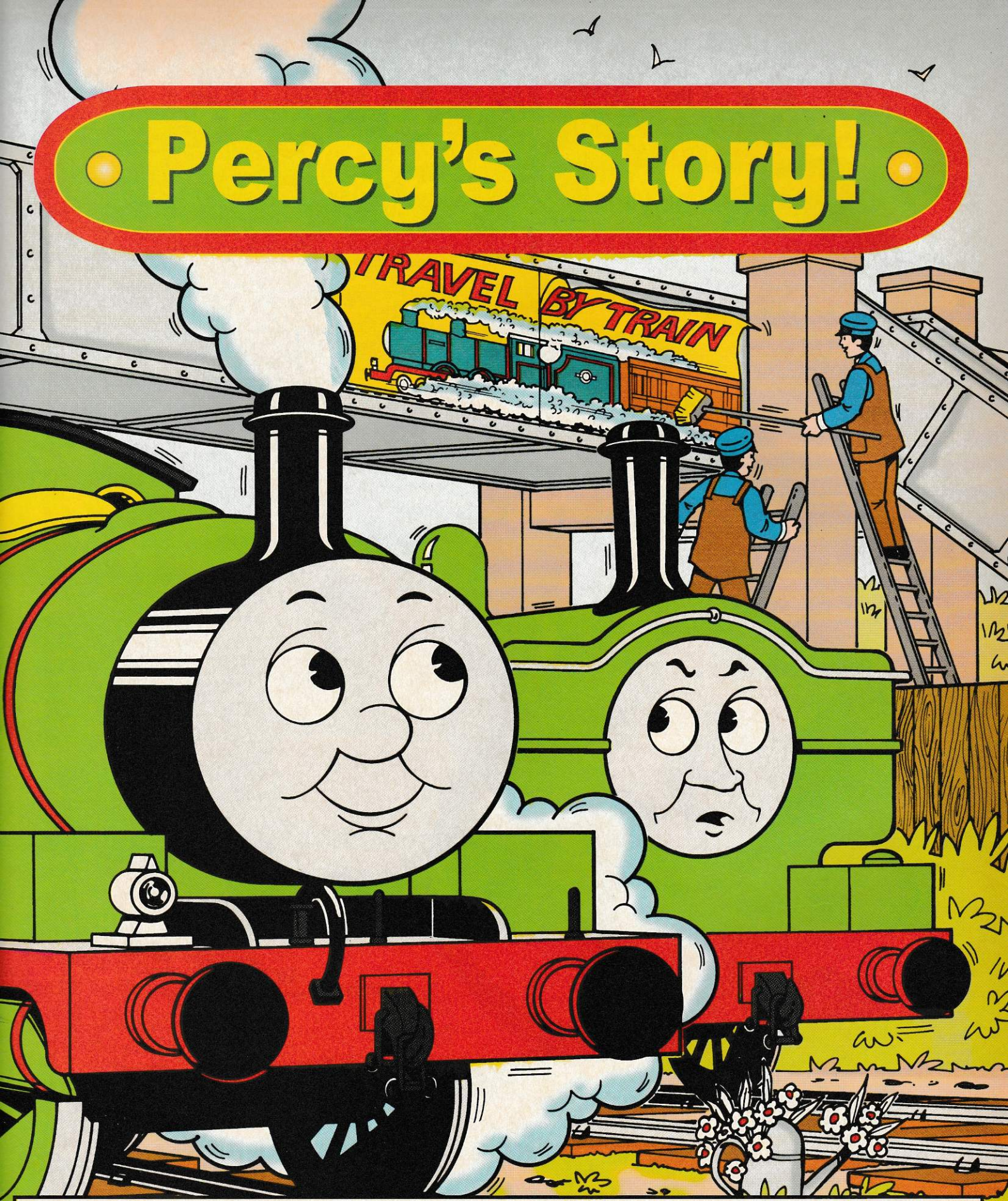
Ragdoll and Friends ©1996 Ragdoll Productions (UK) Ltd.

Four great pre-school comics that make learning fun!

LET'S READ TOGETHER

Available NOW from all leading supermarkets and newsagents!

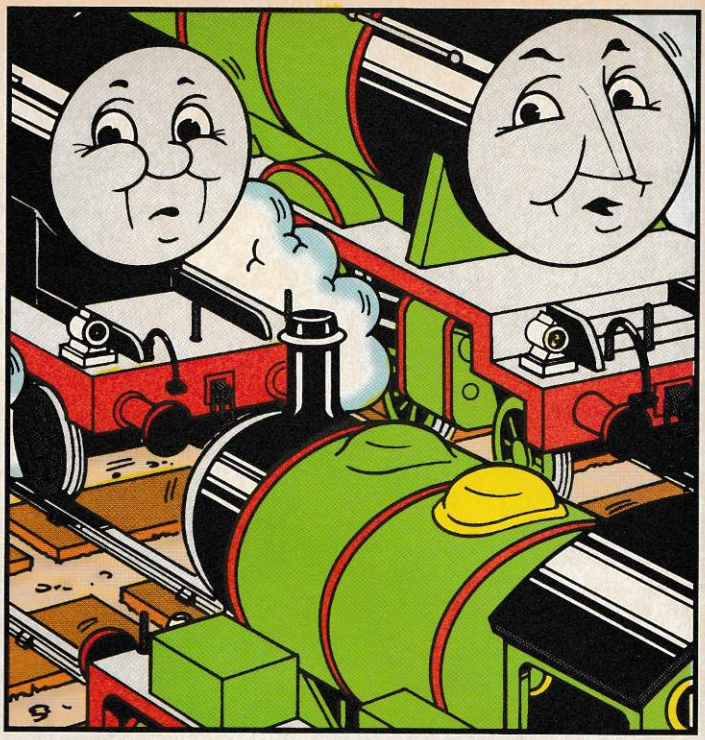
Percy's Story!



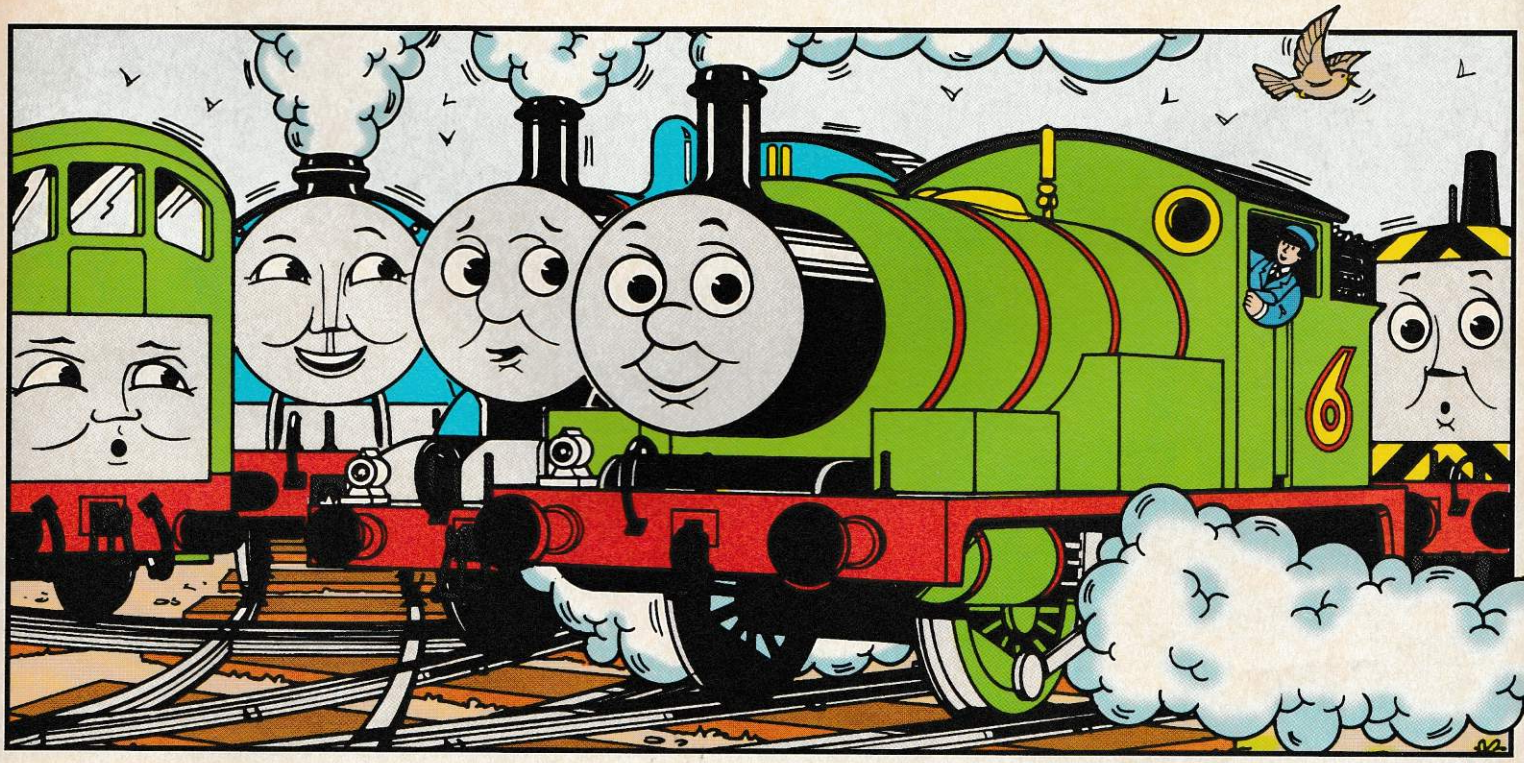
1. Percy was a cheeky engine. He liked to tease the others and make up stories. He told Duck he'd seen men glueing an engine together. Really, it was only a poster of one!

2. Then Percy told Daisy he had seen an engine that was so small it would fit into her driver's pocket. Of course, it turned out to be a toy engine on display in a shop window.

3. "Your silly stories are a waste of time!" said Duck and Daisy. Next morning, Percy overheard the Fat Controller talking to a driver. "All the engines must pull together," he said.

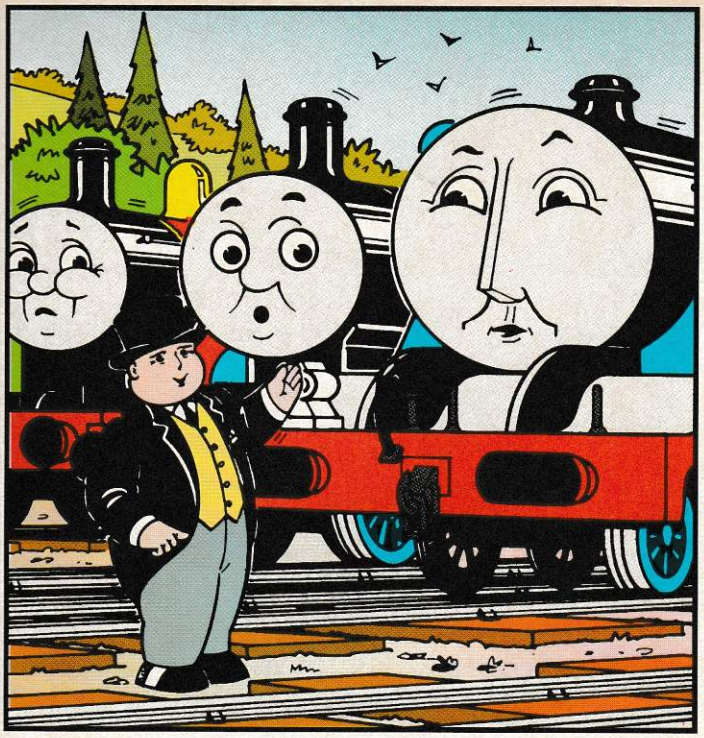


4. Astonished, Percy rushed off to tell the others. "We're all going to pull the same train," he gasped. "It will be the longest one in the world!" "Pah! Ridiculous!" snorted James.

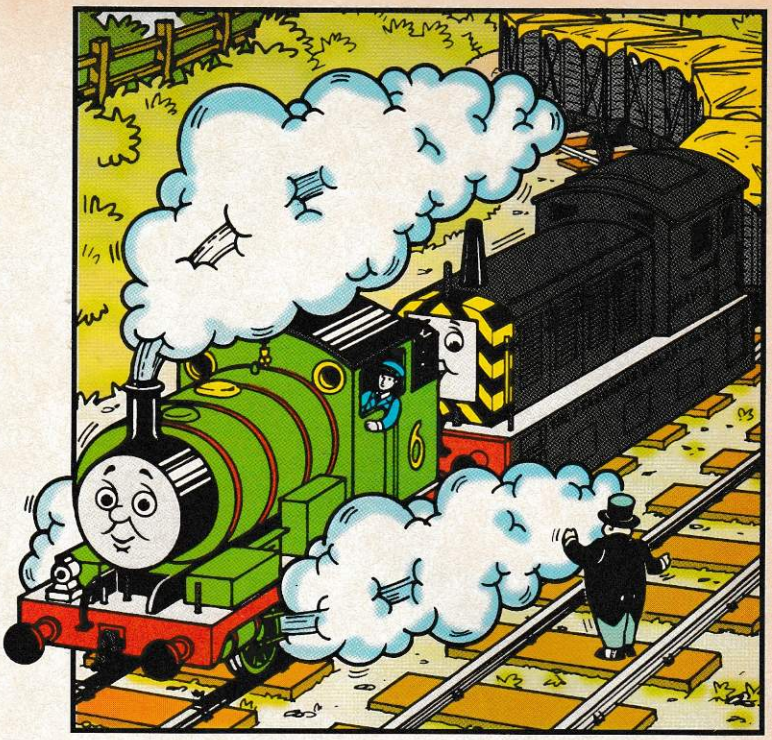


5. "It's just another one of your silly stories!" said Thomas. "But it's true!" he argued. Everyone began to think it just might be, when, minutes later, Mavis was linked up behind Percy.

6. "If Percy's right, I will be in front because I'm the most important!" said Gordon. "It's a job for a modern diesel engine," said BoCo. The Fat Controller heard the commotion.



7. When they explained, the Fat Controller laughed. "Only Mavis and Percy will be used to deliver a long goods train," he announced. "But there is plenty of work today!"



8. "Pulling together means working well together," he added. "Percy's been telling his tall stories again," hissed the engines. Percy was pleased to set off with Mavis.

9. But as they rolled into a dark tunnel, Mavis broke down. "We'll have to leave you both here while we get help," said her driver. "It's a bit creepy, isn't it!" Mavis told Percy.

10. Mavis didn't like the dark. She looked very nervous. Percy had an idea. "I remember when Edward was at the seaside, " he began,"he was admiring some sandcastles."

11. "While he waited at a signal, Duck came hurtling along. His brakes had failed and he couldn't stop!" "Oh no, poor Duck!" gasped Mavis. "Luckily," Percy continued, "Edward was pulling sand trucks, so he rocked them about to spill some sand on to Duck's track, as he approached." "Whatever for?" asked Mavis. "Duck ran into the sand and stopped!" smiled Percy.

12. "Duck was covered in sand. Edward had made his very own sand-engine!" "You made that up!" laughed Daisy. Soon, the drivers returned with engineers and Mavis was repaired. Later, she told the other engines what had happened. "Percy's story was so exciting I forgot all about the dark!" she said. "Then that tall story was Really Useful!" everyone agreed.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Five new stories!

Thomas prizes to win!

Puzzles and colouring!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

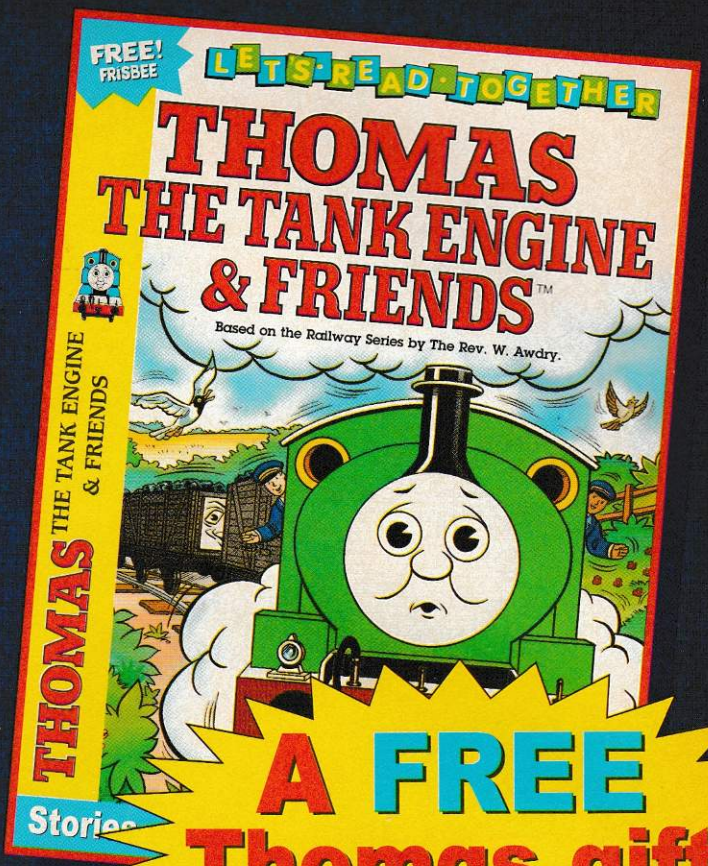
Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

In issue 252 of . . .



A FREE Thomas gift for you!

On sale from 29th May 1997!

ASL

MAIL ORDER CHARACTER MERCHANDISE

Please complete the coupon below or telephone your Credit/Switch Card Order through on **Tel. 01404 861363**

Product	Qty	Price each £	Total
Playhouse		19.99	
Playsuit (age 2-4 yrs)		24.99	
Playsuit (age 4-6 yrs)		24.99	
Fuzzy Felt		4.99	
Thomas Shaped Rug		24.95	
Inflatables:			
Peek-in-Roller		9.99	
Cosy Chair		9.99	
Giant Bop Bag		9.99	
TOMY:			
Thomas Big Loader		20.99	
Thomas Push 'N' Go		7.99	
Fat Controller Push 'N' Go		7.99	
Choo Choo Thomas		19.99	
TOMY Wind-ups:			
Thomas		3.49	
Terence		3.49	
Percy		3.49	
Harold		3.49	
Bulgy		3.49	
Bertie		3.49	
Postage & Packing in Mainland ONLY			
Orders up to £15.00 in value		1.50	
£15.00 and over in value		2.99	
		Total Order Value £	

Please make cheques payable to 'Adwell Systems Ltd' or Debit my Credit/Switch card, Visa, Access, Mastercard. (delete as necessary).

Card No.

Issue No.(if shown) Amount: £

Exp. Date Tel.

Name

Address

Post Code

Send orders to: ASL Ltd. The Old Vicarage, Yarcombe, Devon EX14 9BD. United Kingdom

Overseas Orders Welcome. Please call or write for a quotation on the carriage.

CREDIT CARD ORDER HOTLINE 01404 861363

Thomas and the world's favourite wooden railway.

Thomas the Tank Engine was waiting quietly outside his shed, when he heard some Very Important News.

"Thomas," announced The Fat Controller, "we're going on the BRIO Wooden Railway."

"What's that?" asked Thomas.

"Only the finest wooden railway system in the world – it has track, stations, tunnels, bridges, people, trees and lots more – and it's all made out of solid beechwood."

"What fun!" said Thomas.

"And all your friends are going, including James, Gordon, Annie and Clarabel."

"How exciting," thought Thomas, "I'm bound to make lots of new friends too."

BRIO®
WOODEN RAILWAY SYSTEM

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS™

The BRIO Wooden Railway System from Sweden now includes Thomas the Tank Engine. From around £3.99 to £74.99. Available from leading Specialist Toy Retailers. Call 01509 231824 (24 hours) or clip the coupon for our full colour brochure and local stockist list.

Please send me a free BRIO catalogue and a list of local stockists (UK and Ireland only).

Name .....

Age of intended recipient .....

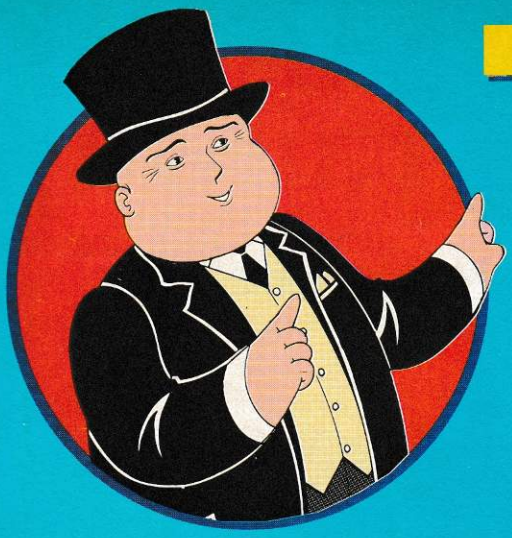
Address .....

..... Post code .....

Existing BRIO toy owner Yes/No T2

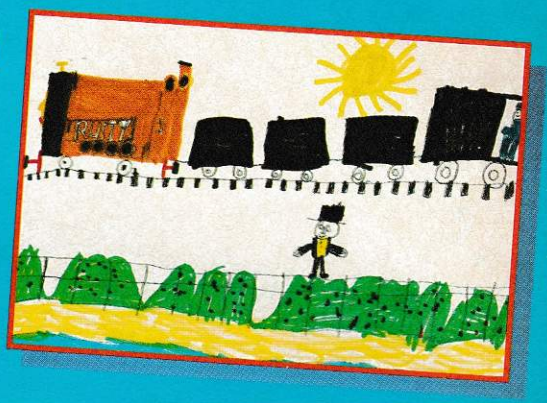
CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPT, BRIO LTD, MESSENGER CLOSE, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS. LE11 5SP.

© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited 1997



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.



Rusty and I are having fun at the sea -side! Drawn by Dominic Mcgill, aged 7.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Why are Duncan and Percy both number six engines? Do you get confused telling them apart too?

Love from Micah, aged 3.

Luckily they work on different lines! Duncan is an SR engine and works on the Skarloey Railway. Percy is one of the NWR engines,and puffs along part of the North Western Railway!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

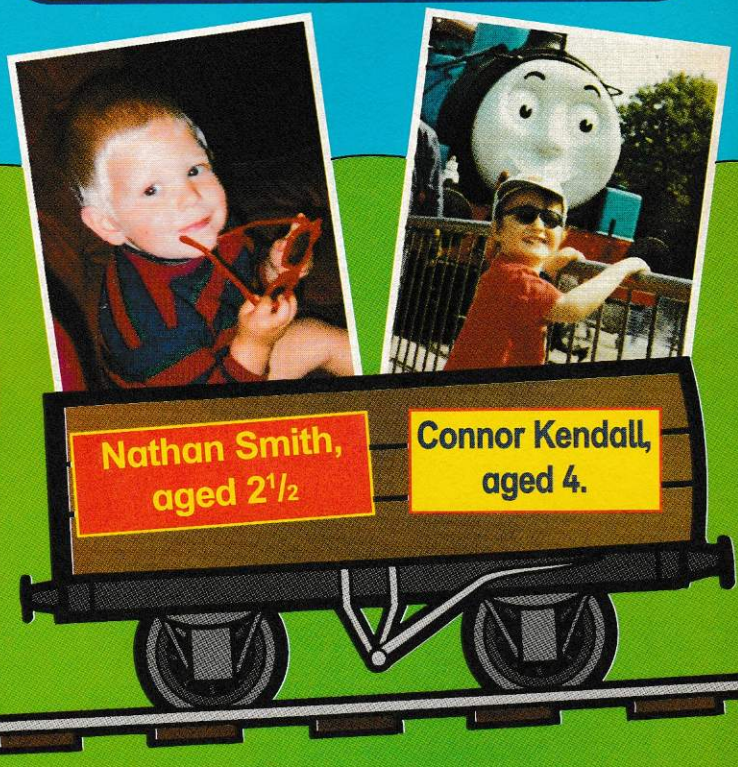
Prize Poem!

Thanks to Mollie Humphrey, aged 2, for this marvellous poem!

We went on a bus called Bertie,
Who was incredibly dirty.
But as everyone knows,
With the help of a hose,
His red paint will shine like a rose!

Happy Birthday

To: Lucy Leye, aged 6,
Andrew Starkie, aged 4,
Johnnie Delahunty, aged 6,
Jonathan Ingham, aged 7, &
James Shannon, aged 5.



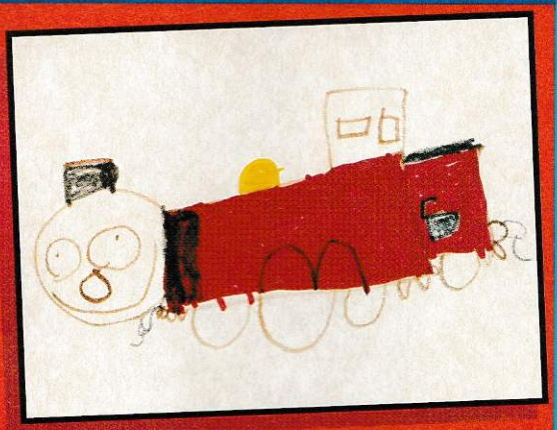
Nathan Smith, aged 2½

Connor Kendall, aged 4.

ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers!

This is a very jolly James! Thanks to Daniel Atkin, aged 6!



Daniel Taylor, aged 6, has drawn a happy Thomas working in the sun!

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

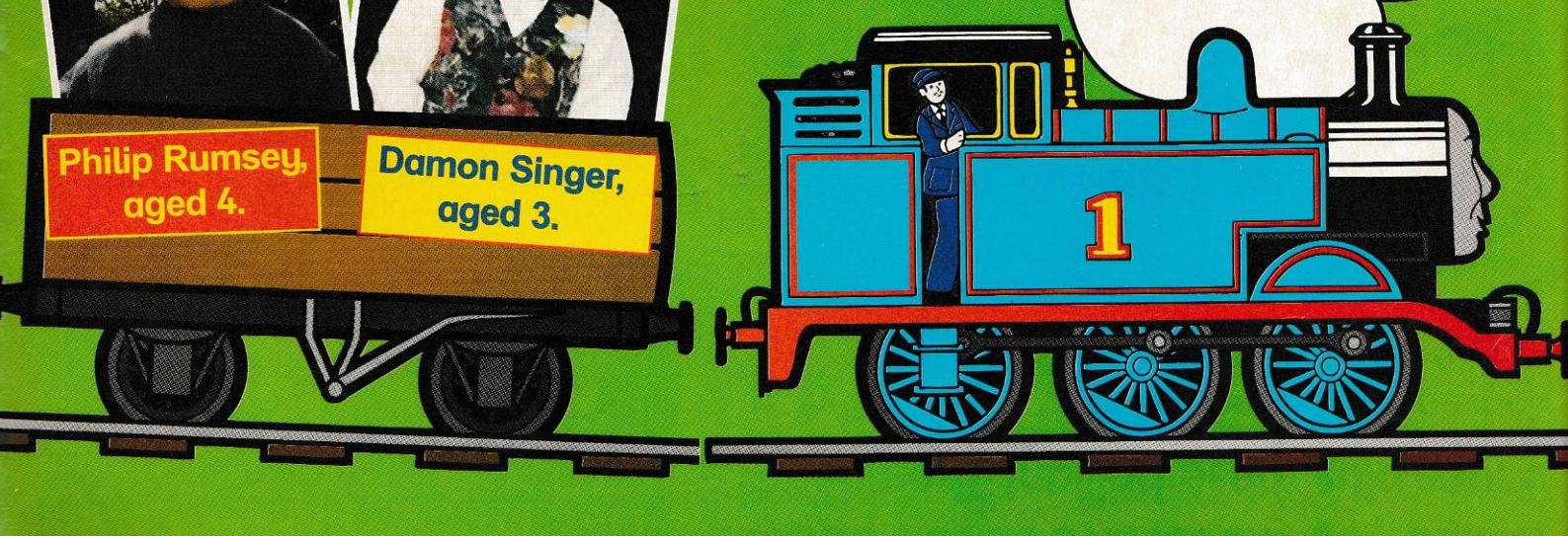
What do you call mad insects?
Lunatics?
Christopher Rothwell, aged 5.

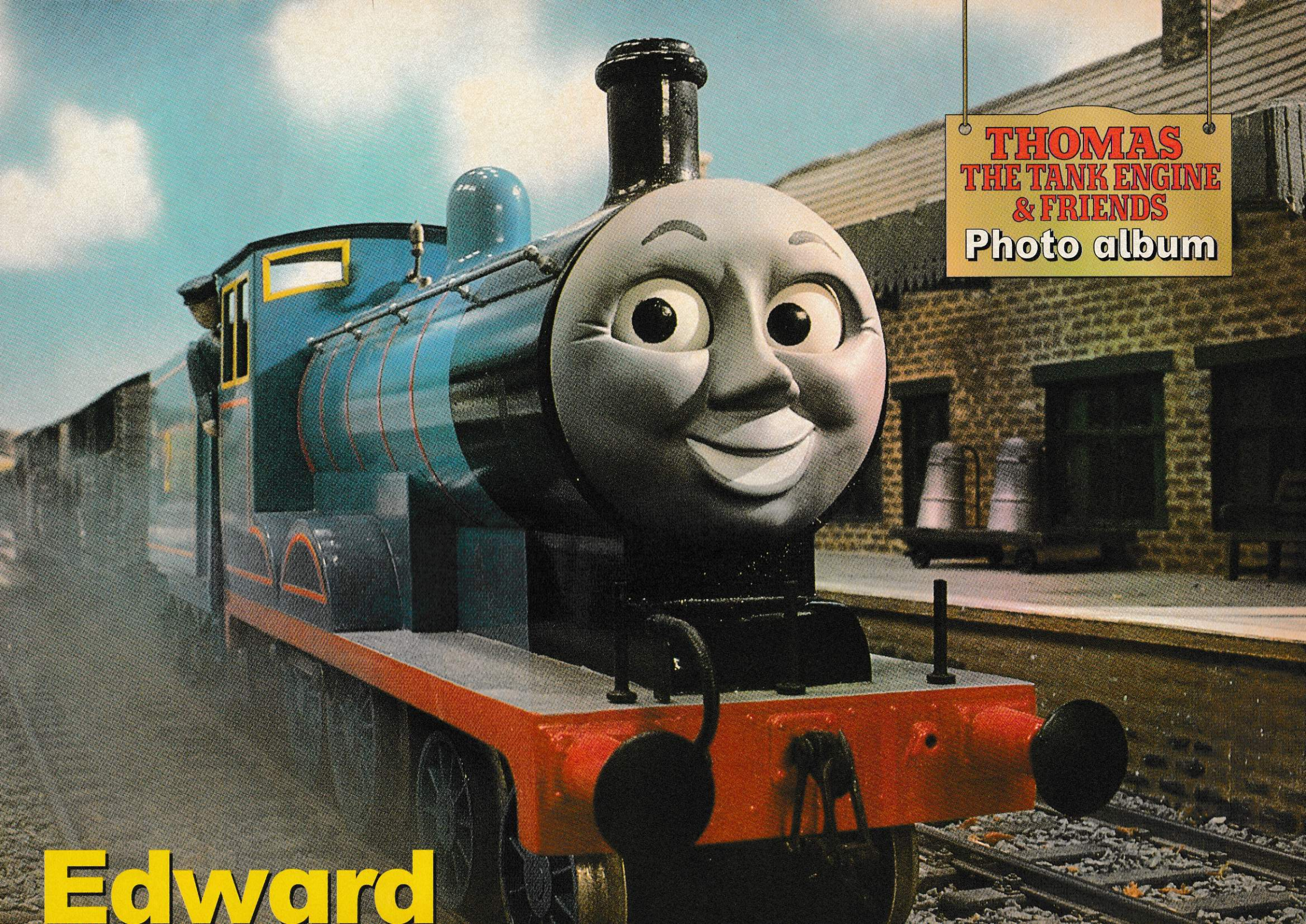
What do you get if you cross a fish with an elephant?
Swimming trunks!
David Timpson, aged 6.

Who's the most famous creature in the ocean?
The Starfish!
Richard Cole, aged 4.

Philip Rumsey, aged 4.

Damon Singer, aged 3.




THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
Edward